

Getting ready for Yard of Pride Page 2



Poet puts out book of love poems Page 20



Let's dance

Prom night in the hatching

by STEVE BAKER

All over Houston this time of year, there are high school kids planning for prom night. Guys are asking girls to be their dates. Girls are busy selecting the perfect dress. But for the sixth year in Montrose, there is another prom in the works where the guys are not asking girls to be their dates, they are asking other guys. And girls are not waiting around on guys to ask them out, they are asking other girls to swing them around on the dance floor.



On June 19, The Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) is planning its annual "Prom Night" which will be held at the Lovett Inn at 501 Lovett Blvd.

"The event is designed to allow gay and lesbian youth an opportunity to be themselves which is denied to them at similar functions held at their high schools," said Ron Dalton, public relations chairman of H.A.T.C.H.

Dalton said, "The youth are heavily involved in planning the event and adult volunteers assist only as needed with such things as securing the

venue of the event."

The assistance that these youth most need from adults is sponsorships.

"Prom Night' is the main fund-raiser event where the funds generated support most of the activities and operational costs of H.A.T.C.H. each year," said Dalton.

This year, the donations are being asked in three tier levels. For donations of \$500 or more, a sponsor earns the recognition as a "superintendent" of the event, and \$250 makes a sponsor a "principal." "Chaperone" status is awarded to those that kick in \$100.

HATCH is a 501 (c) 3 organization, so all donations of any amount are tax-deductible.

Participation in the event is encouraged not only to teens but also to the general public.

Adults wanting to take a trip down memory lane and see what their high school prom could have been like years ago when H.A.T.C.H. did not exist for them can buy tickets at the door for \$20. Gay and lesbian youth will be admitted free of charge.

> See Prom Page 15

Lesbian moms



KIM THOMPSON

Six-year-old Alex Japour takes in the sights at Baba Yega with her two moms, J.J. Mustain (left) and Sidney Japour. A new study from Britain says Alex's a lucky girl: Lesbian moms rule!

See our story page 2 >

AIDS Walk Houston steps in new direction

► May 16 event to be held at George R. Brown Convention Center

by TAAVI MARK

The 10th annual AIDS Walk Houston will take a new path May 16.

In years past, the walk has taken place at the Sam Houston Park, but this year the walk will begin and end at the George R. Brown Convention Center, featuring a 10K walking tour



Selber

of downtown.

There are two main reasons for the change in venue.

"Last year, there had been fires in Mexico which affected the air quality," said Ken Kelly, director of communications for AIDS Foundation Houston, "so we moved indoors for people with compromised immune systems. It's also cooler inside with the probable heat on

May 16th."

People will be able to participate in the post walk party in air-conditioned comfort with local band Benny Q and the Nite Crew.

Besides the change in location the organizers of the event have also decided to focus more on walk team recruitment.

"When you look at AIDS walks across the country, a majority of the funds raised come from corporate and civic walk teams," said Gregory Perrin, director of development for AIDS Foundation Houston.

"Last year we raised \$250,000," said Kelly. "Traditionally we raise 23 per-

cent better than the previous year."

This year, buoyed by support of walk teams such as Chase Bank, the lead sponsor with 500 employees, the AIDS Walk has increased its goal to \$400,000, far surpassing usual estimates.

Other walk teams include Advo, Locke-Liddell, Sachnowitz & Co., Abbott Laboratories, Agouron Pharmaceuticals, American General, Duke Energy, DuPont Pharmaceuticals, Fiesta, Glaxo Wellcome, MacGregor Medical, Southwestern Bell and Walgreen's.

Media sponsors are: *Houston Voice*, *The Houston Chronicle*, KMJQ-Majic 102, KRIV-Fox 26, KTBZ-107.5 The

> See Walk Page 15

INSIDE

NEWS

'Sense Of Place'	5
Montrose addition	5
HAN-Net's 6th	5
Gay adoption hearing	6
HIV funding approved	6
Gay church	6

VIEWS & ECHOES

Letters:	8
Chamber	8
'Resurrection'	8
Dr. Laura	8
Rose: Inclusion?	9
'Ethan Green'	9

OUT ON THE BAYOU

Summer movies	17
Upcoming events	17
Dance shows	18
'Mefistofele'	19
Out In Print	20
Bestsellers	20
Eating Out	23
Community Calendar	25
Occasions	30
Galaxy Gayzer	31

CLASSIFIEDS	28
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Issue 967

houston voice

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Houston, TX 77006
713-529-8490

Study finds lesbians make great parents

by KAY Y. DAYUS

Perhaps lesbians do not make better parents, but heterosexual couples can learn a lot about parenting from lesbian couples, according to a recently released study by Gill Dunne of the London School of Economics.

In a comparison of lesbian and heterosexual households, Dunne found that lesbian couples are better at sharing the household chores than traditional parents, leaving both partners more time to spend with the children.

"I would never say lesbians make better parents, because parenting is a struggle and the most we can hope to be is good enough. Nonetheless, my message is that there is much to learn from lesbian and gay people," said Dunne.

The four-year study of 43 lesbian households in Britain found that lesbian families, both the mother and co-parent, tended to regard parenthood as a combination of mothering and breadwinning. Whereas, in traditional mother/father families, the father is designated the breadwinner while the mother takes on the responsibility of taking care of the home and the children.

"There is nothing to say that one parent has to be a breadwinner. It ends up with a father or mother spending so much time

at work that they never see their children," said Dunne. She found that lesbian couples split their time so effectively that they bring in half the income each, allowing them to devote more time to their children than conventional families.

"This is something that (heterosexual) parents can learn a lot from," said Dunne.

Another reason that lesbians make good parents, she said, is "because their children are enormously wanted, very loved and born into an environment where both parents have been brought up to provide a stable household."

Dunne, a widow and a former Cambridge University researcher, also suggests that lesbians are more likely than heterosexual couples to foster gender equality.

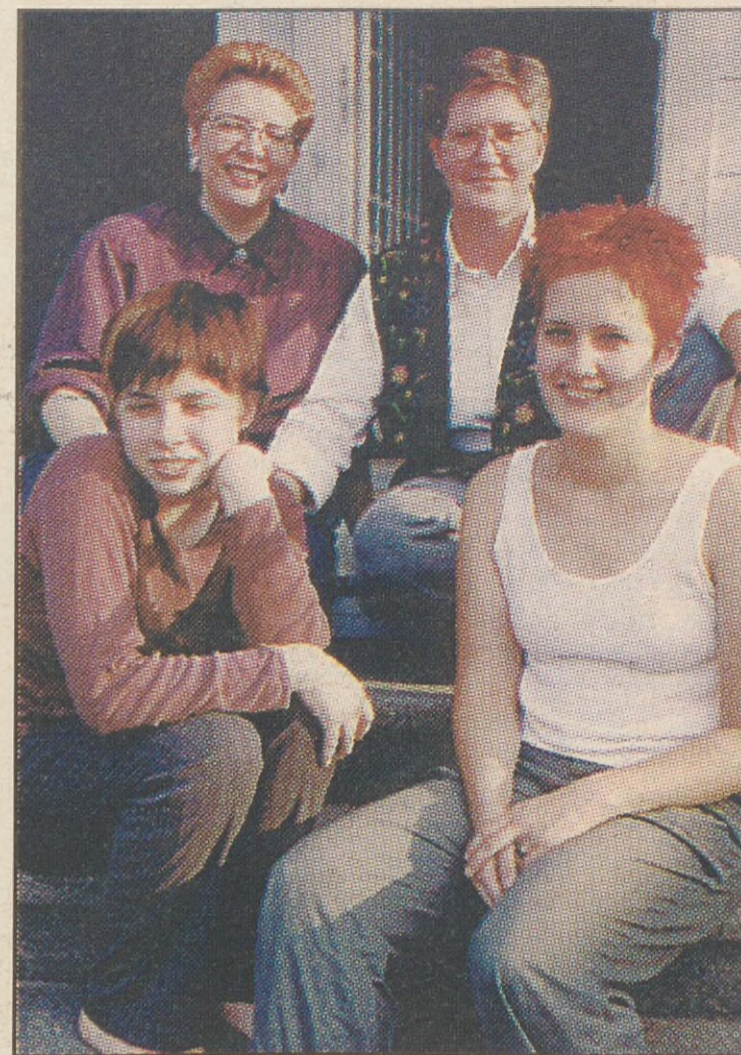
The researcher said she thinks that, "institutional heterosexuality contributes to the reproduction of inequality, ideologically and materially."

Dunne's Lesbian Household Project used a wide range of methods to investigate the allocation of work and parenting responsibilities in 43 cohabiting lesbian partnerships. Most of the 43 couples had young children, paid employment and were university-educated.

Local reaction

Enita Torres and Barbara Ervin have been living together for 13 years and have raised Torres' two children from an earlier heterosexual union. Torres was already divorced when she met Ervin. Torres' children, David and Marisa were 7 and 5 respectively when they met. They are now 20 and 17, so Torres and Ervin have raised them together.

Both Ervin and Torres can easily identify with the findings of Dunne's study. They both work full time and equally share household chores. Torres said she played the traditional housewife role when she was married to her children's father.



We are family, clockwise from top left: Mom Enita Torres, Mom Barbara Ervin, Maria Luhtanen (a Finnish exchange student) and daughter, Marisa Miller.

"I stayed home and looked after the children and the house." With Ervin, she says, things are different. They each do the chores they like or find more suited to them, but they are not gender driven, she said.

Typical of lesbian couples with children, they bring the values they learned in their traditional upbringing to the family. But because they are aware of discrimination and prejudice, they are extra careful to discourage these traits in their children. "They are comfortable with us and our lifestyle and they have no prejudices," said Torres. And she added with a little smile, "I am very pleased with them."

Interestingly, because they did not adopt the usual family roles, neither did they force them on their children. "They both washed dishes; they both had the same chores," said Ervin. "They both got baseball bats and gloves, and they both got Cabbage Patch Premie babies."

Another lesbian couple, Sidney Japour and J.J. Mustain, live in southwest Houston with Japour's six-year-old daughter Alex. They have lived together for two years and plan a holy union ceremony next year, and J.J. wants to legally-adopt Alex.

They also concur with Dunne's findings. They both work, equally share household duties, and spend a lot of time with Alex.

"We do lots of things together," Japour said. They too, take time to instill the value of being non-prejudiced into Alex. Alex is a very bright and happy child who is equally comfortable with her two "moms."

Although Alex is not quite sure what "lesbian" means, she seems to be at ease with the word. At the beginning of the interview, Alex leaned towards this reporter and whispered confidentially, "My moms are lesbians."

Yard of pride



The Pride Committee of Houston is going green. It wants to celebrate the gardeners who have turned neighborhoods into wonderful places by launching a new award for the best yard. Here, Randy Judd in the Heights gets his yard ready for the competition. For full rules on entering the contest, contact the committee at 713-529-6979.

dosing / time / convenience

drug cocktail / work / side effects

why

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food interactions / balance

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SUSTIVA, an NNRTI*, must be used in combination with other HIV drugs.

SUSTIVA is tough on HIV. It reduces the amount of virus in your blood and increases the number of CD4 cells. SUSTIVA can even be used in young children, 3 years of age or older. This is based on results from controlled clinical trials at 24 weeks. Presently, there are no results from controlled clinical trials showing the long-term effects of SUSTIVA.

SUSTIVA has manageable side effects. Most side effects are mild to moderate and can be managed. The most significant side effects associated with SUSTIVA therapy have been nervous system symptoms (dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating and/or abnormal dreams) and rash. These usually subside within the first two to four weeks of treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may help make nervous system symptoms less noticeable.

*NNRTI - non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor.

For more information on SUSTIVA, call 1-800-4PHARMA or visit our website at <http://www.sustiva.com>
For more information on the updated DHHS Guidelines, a PDF file of the guidelines is available at <http://www.hivatis.org>

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drugs in government
guidelines.¹

Pregnancy should be avoided in women receiving SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in primates dosed with SUSTIVA. Barrier contraception should always be used in combination with other methods of contraception.

Talk to your doctor when you start taking SUSTIVA. SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Always tell your doctor if you are taking, starting or changing any prescription or non-prescription medicine when taking SUSTIVA. Your doctor may change your medicines or change their dose. You should discuss your prior medical conditions (such as mental illness, substance abuse, hepatitis, etc.) with your doctor before taking SUSTIVA.

We know that coping with HIV is difficult enough. Your treatment doesn't have to be. Ask your doctor about SUSTIVA. For more important information see the next page for Patient Information about SUSTIVA.

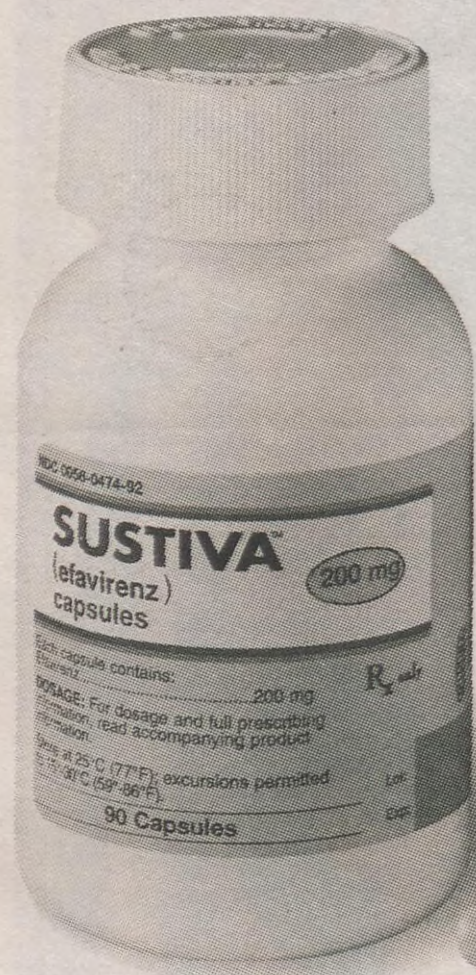
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1. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), December 1998.

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Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA (efavirenz)
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. Rarely, patients have more serious side effects that may affect mood or ability to think clearly. These side effects occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:**

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:**

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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HERE

NEWS FROM HOUSTON



LUCINDA GARCES

Montrose Counseling Center acquires new psychologist

Ray Pledger has been retained by the Montrose Counseling Center as a consulting psychologist. He will be overseeing client assessments. He will also review and develop clinical policies.

In its 21st year, the center has served over 10,000 individuals and is a big player in public health education to the gay community.

Pledger

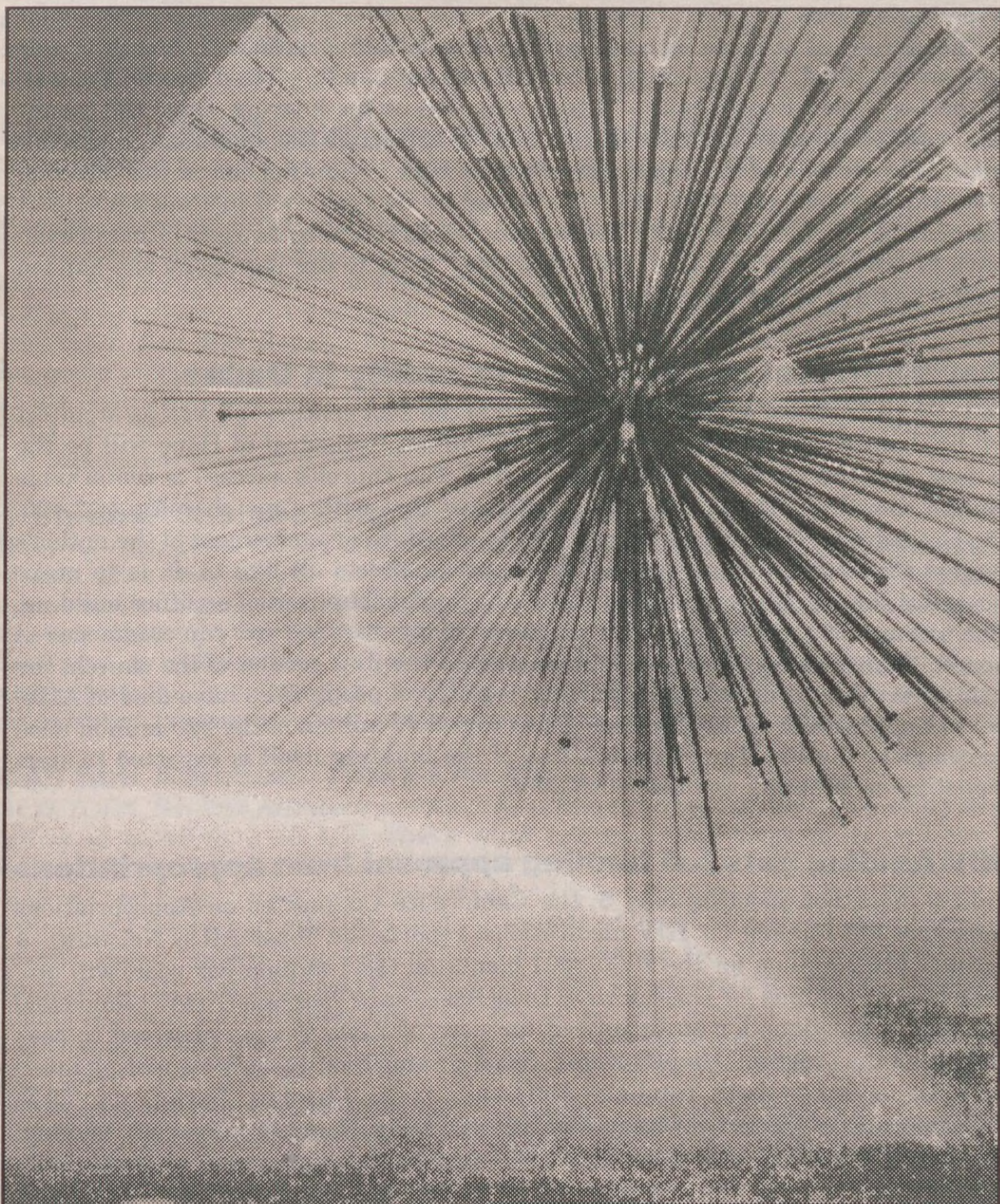
HAN-Net celebrates six months of online activism

Over the past six months the local online activist community has been graced with the presence of Han-Net. The online bulletin board, information disseminator and general community web epicenter has more than 160 members and since its inception, in November 1998, has moved 3,000 messages related to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered news and views.



A Sense Of Place

▼ a photographic diary of our community ▼



KIM THOMPSON

"Do not the most moving moments of our lives find us all without words."
—mime, Marcel Marceau

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR A CLINICAL TRIAL HIV Vaccine to prevent HIV

Research volunteers are needed for clinical trials to test a synthetic vaccine to prevent and immunize against HIV (the virus that causes AIDS). You cannot get HIV infection from this synthetic vaccine



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- Females at risk for acquiring HIV
- Negative for HIV by HIV-screening test
- Willing to accept safe-sex counseling



The study involves a double-blind administration of receiving either vaccine or placebo. The chances of receiving active vaccine versus placebo are 2 to 1. HIV testing is anonymous and FREE for qualified participants.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL

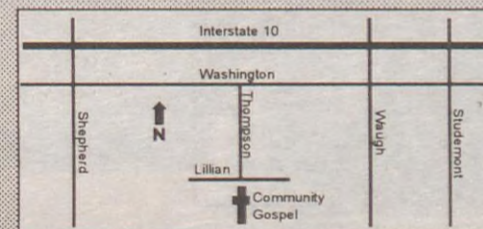
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THERE

NEWS FROM TEXAS

Gay men and lesbians as parents debated in hearing

AUSTIN—More than 200 people overflowed at a House State Affairs Committee meeting May 3 to debate whether gays and lesbians should be allowed to adopt children, marry and be free from discrimination in the workplace, reported the San



Rep. Debra Danburg

Antonio *Express-News*. Much of the emotional debate focused on a proposal by Rep. Warren Chisum, R-Pampa, to prohibit lesbian and gay couples from adopting children or being foster parents, and to remove children the state has previously placed with homosexual couples. Support for Chisum's efforts to "place children where it is best for them—where they have a father and a mother" focused on assertions that sodomy is illegal in Texas, that children of same-sex couples may be ridiculed at school and that children may be confused about their own sexuality or adopt a homosexual lifestyle. Houston Democrat Rep. Debra Danburg's opposing bill prohibiting child protection workers from considering a potential parent's sexual orientation got applause from more than half of the room—including more than a dozen lesbian, gay and heterosexual parents, social workers and the

Houston Log Cabin Republicans. "The child's best interest is for us to find a loving home," Danburg said. "We need to find people who love these kids, who will take them to the doctor, take them to the counselor, take them to school, wipe their noses."

The committee at press time had not voted on either proposals. "I thought it was well orchestrated, the opposition to the bill was outstanding," said Ronald Bounds, of the Log Cabin Republicans of Texas, who was at the hearing. Over 100 people are expected to speak against the bill. Bounds estimates the adoption bill will not make it to the floor of the Legislature because time is running out on the 76th session. Houstonian Liz Vilven, who was raised by two gay men in Houston said at the hearing: "I can't believe as a heterosexual child raised by two gay fathers I even have to explain myself before this committee." Prior to her testimony she handed family pictures to the committee members.

Gay cathedral moves closer to reality in Dallas

DALLAS (AP)—Billed as "the first cathedral of the 21st century" as well as architect Philip Johnson's crowning legacy, the \$20 million Cathedral of Hope will be the largest gay and lesbian church in the world. The church's success is remarkable church consultant Dr. Lyle Schaller estimates that with a membership of 2,400, the Cathedral of Hope is now among the top one-third of one percent of the nation's largest Protestant congregations. "What we architects all like to do is to make beautiful shapes. It's very hard to make a beautiful shape out of an office building. But a church is a challenge and a wonderful thing, because you can create sacred space," Johnson said. With ground breaking on the first section of the church, the bell tower which will hold an electronic registry of people who have died of AIDS set to begin within weeks, the church has raised \$7 million of the \$20 million need to complete the structure. Construction of the building itself is expected to start sometime next spring and last until 2002.

HIV funding gets full funding approval from appropriations

In a marathon meeting May 5, the Conference Committee on Appropriations approved full funding for HIV medications, reports the Texas AIDS Network. A total of \$16.2 million for the 2000-2001 biennium (\$8.1 million per year) will provide matching funds for federal AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) funds and provide medications for an estimated increase of 2,000 Texans expected to seek help from the program. "Appropriators faced a number of strongly competing interests in making their funding decisions," said Carolyn Parker of TAN. "Representative Garnet Coleman and Senator Mike Moncrief were both 'champions' of our request for full funding for HIV medications. However, the entire conference committee's vote was needed to secure this funding, and all of them deserve our thanks," the executive director said.

—From staff and wire reports

BEYOND

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

Most voters would consider supporting gay candidates

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A majority of Americans would consider voting for a gay or lesbian candidate for state legislature or Congress, states a new study released

May 6 by the Gay And Lesbian Victory Fund. "Voters of all stripes are clearly telling us that what matters to them is not their candidates' sexual orientation, but that their candidates have the right to stand on the issues, strong political values and a refreshingly honest character," said GLBVF executive director Brian K. Bond. He said he is hopeful the study's findings bring a "leveling of the playing field for great gay and lesbian candidates for office."

The research found that 77 percent of voters—including 65 percent of Republicans, 85 percent of Democrats and 81 of Independents—would consider voting for a gay candidate for state legislature or Congress based on the candidate's stand on the issues.



Make it a 'GP' pal: New gay pride beer hits Mass pubs

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. (AP)—"Gay Pride" beer came out May 1—out of the brewery and onto the shelf. The beer, which is now available only in Massachusetts, is being marketed mainly to gays. Jenn Wolper, who created the brew, developed the idea one night in 1997 as she scanned the beer list at the Grotto, a gay bar in Northampton, Mass. "How come we don't have our own beer?" she recalled asking the bartender. Wolper, a former manager in public health care and the communications industry, set about creating the beverage, the latest product to target the gay market. Wolper got June Peterson, a former colleague, to sign on as a business partner. They found a custom brewer in New Hampshire, put together about \$70,000 largely from Peterson's investments, and arranged for the brewing of about 4,000 cases for starters. The pale ale's bottle label features the initials "GP" and a banner saying "Gay Pride." It will sell typically for between \$14 and \$15 for a 12-pack, Wolper said.

Lesbian school employee wins discrimination appeal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A state appeals court has upheld \$360,000 for a lesbian school employee who lost her job after trying to sympathize with a supervisor, who was lamenting publicity about his gay brother, by telling him she was gay too. Jan Overholtzer said that after her disclosure, the first time she had mentioned her sexual orientation at work, her supervisor ordered her not to leave the building without his approval, and so totally undermined her authority as head of the district print shop that she quit her job of 18 years and considered suicide. In a ruling made public April 29, the 1st District Court of Appeal upheld a jury's findings of discrimination and a forced resignation caused by intolerable working conditions. The court said it was irrelevant that the personnel director who brushed off her complaints was also a lesbian.

Thin blue line seeking gay men and lesbians

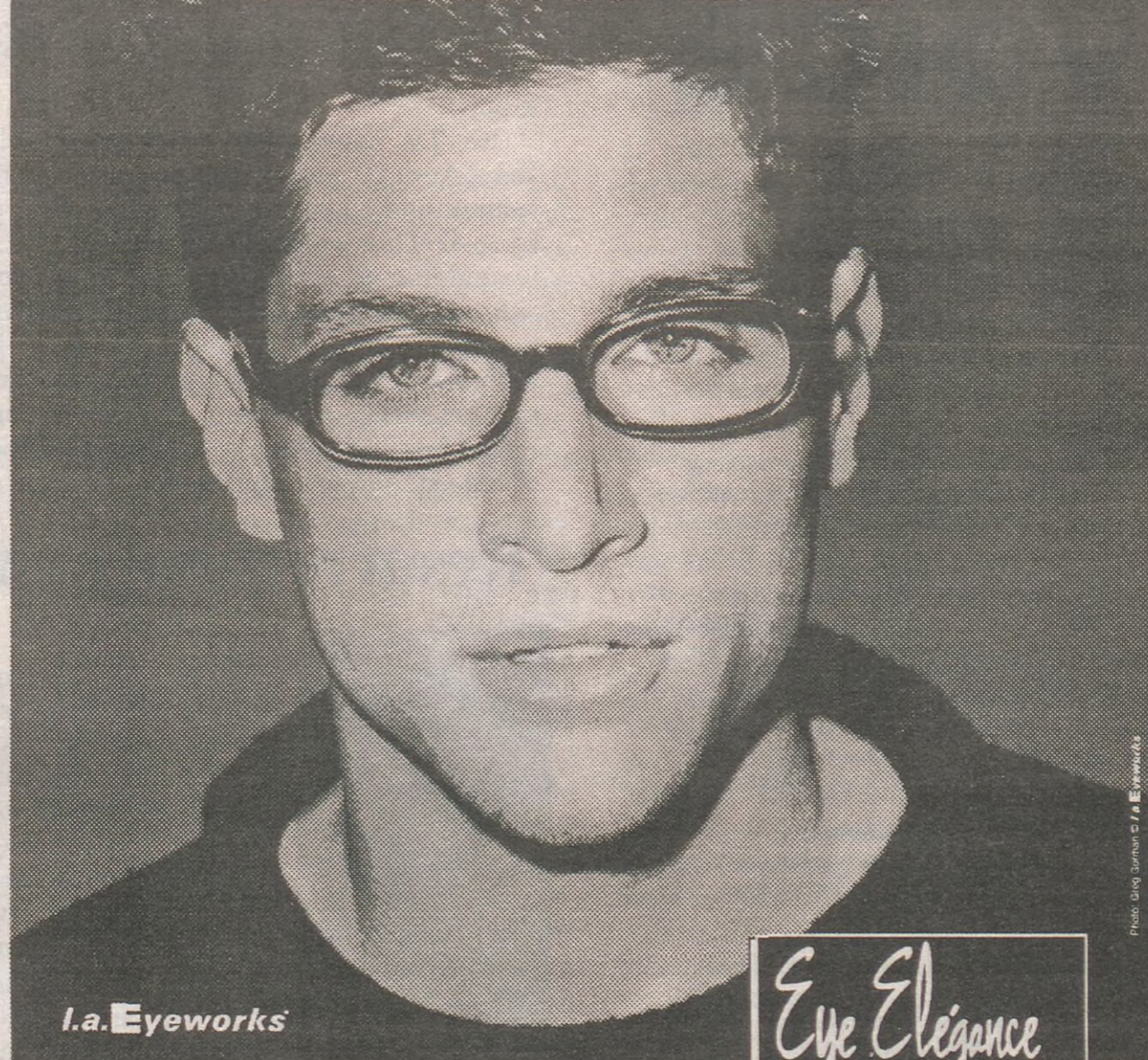
NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—Police here admit they are targeting blacks, Hispanics, women, gays and lesbians—not as suspects, but as candidates to join the force. At a time when images of police brutality have been seared into the American psyche, the New Haven Police Department is recruiting the very people who have often been seen as their victims. The department began its campaign April 26, printing advertisements in alternative publications and distributing fliers to inner city organizations, churches, and a community center for gays and lesbians.

Call him Abraham Tinky-Lincoln

NEW YORK, Ny—Was Abraham Lincoln, the president whose picture is on every \$5 bill is as queer as a \$3 bill? That's what two upcoming biographies will say. Separate books by scholarly sex researcher C.A. Tripp, author of "The Homosexual Matrix," and by Larry Kramer, founder of Act Up and the Gay Men's Health Crisis, will claim Lincoln had a lengthy and passionate affair with his best male friend, Joshua Speed. Speed and Lincoln slept in a double bed at Speed's home in Springfield, Ill., for four years when both were young and struggling. Kramer claims evidence for the affair has been around for over a century but ignored by historians. Letters from Speed, for example, betray a close emotional and physical tie. In the May 1 *New York Post*, Kramer also claims to have discovered a secret Speed diary under the floorboards of a building that once housed his general store. The diary allegedly reveals more details of the supposed affair, but so far Kramer isn't allowing anyone access to it. He claims that Speed wrote of Lincoln: "He often kisses me when I tease him, often to shut me up ... he would grab me up by his long arms and hug and hug."

—from staff and wire reports

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Publishers
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Houston, Texas 77006
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LETTERS

Newspaper criticized for helping Dr. Laura spread hate

Editor:

(Re: 'Dr. Laura: Gays want to normalize pedophilia' *Houston Voice*, April 23, page 21). Quite frankly, I have never heard of this woman and I hope never to again. It is unfortunate that I first learned of her warped homophobic views in this newspaper. I fail to understand why this excellent periodical would even give Schlessinger the satisfaction of having her point put across in a newspaper serving the gay community. I honestly believe people with views like Schlessinger hope that magazines, newspapers, and television put them on (even though the majority of the media totally disagree with them) to help them spread their kind of hatred, and for some reason (ratings, sales = \$\$) they do it. I

know that your newspaper wants to give everyone a chance to give their opinion, no matter how offensive it may be. I believe that by giving them that opportunity it helps to keep their hatred going. I love your newspaper and read it every week. I will continue to do so, but I hope that in the future you would maybe think twice about publishing articles giving the "Ms. Schlessinger's" of this world print space.



Dr. Laura

Hector Guajardo
via e-mail

'Resurrection' cast member responds to Groover review



Resurrection

Editor:

The April 30 issue of the *Houston Voice* had a review of Houston Grand Opera's "Resurrection" written by D.L. Groover. This letter is in response to his so-called critique. It is apparent to me that Groover is not an opera fan and did not really "listen" to the music of the opera. Tod Machover did not write any music that contained hints of "balalaikas and Russian liturgical themes," any where in the music. Groover never really gave the opera a chance. He apparently does not get out much and has no idea what he saw and heard. I personally was deeply hurt that this so-called critic would write such a review. While the music is important, so is the acting and the ability of all of the cast to project to the audience the reality of the Russian view of human rights and morality. The audience will never know the hard and dangerous rehearsals that we participated in to deliver the superb acting and timing that this major opera represents. Believe me, the staging of the prison scene alone, took several weeks to create in an authentic way and yet, keep us from getting hurt. Groover remarks about the "march to Siberia" are particularly irritating since he did not "get" the message! The "march" libretto was deliberately "repetitive" so that the audience could understand the "mind numbing and spirit numbing," effect it had on all the prisoners. In closing, the audience at each performance has given us and the composer a standing ovation. When all is done and said, the audience is the only real critic I listen to.

Bruce R. Irick
via e-mail

Inclusion means adding transgendered and bisexuals

Editor:

(Re: Viewpoint by Anita Renteria 'Addressing the Chamber's inclusiveness,' *Houston Voice*, April 30, page 9)

We tend to unite into groups that share our own beliefs and lifestyles. There is a strong need for that unity, especially among oppressed/discriminated segments of our society. It creates synergy far greater than the sum of the parts. I must respectfully disagree with Anita Renteria. I believe that the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber is wrong NOT including the words "transgendered" and "bisexual." At the very least, they should be noted in the mission statement (and not just as "support-

ing individuals...") I'm sorry, but equating "Levis, hair color, etc.," to orientation (either sexual or gender) is WRONG! It goes back to the "preference" or "orientation" issue. Anita's reasoning about including every single attribute of our communities is just another cop-out! As a Chamber member, I want to see the change happen! Transgendered have been very supportive of the gay and lesbian community and our issues. I think it is, in turn, needed to accept and support them as a part of "US." And NOW!

Dan DiDonato
via e-mail

Chamber must include more than just gays and lesbians in name

Editor:

(Re: Viewpoint by Anita Renteria 'Addressing the Chamber's inclusiveness' *Houston Voice*, April 30, page 9)

Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce President Anita Renteria's viewpoint on bisexual and transgender inclusion was indeed disappointing and a personal surprise to me. I thought she was more open and informed on these issues.

Just as no one chooses to be gay or lesbian, no one chooses to be bisexual or to be born the wrong gender. I choose to wear Levis, but I didn't choose to be gay. And I know my transgender friends did not chose their difficult path to happiness and fulfillment as human beings. Thirty years ago at the Stonewall Inn, transgender people were at the center of what is now referred to as "the birth of the modern gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality movement civil." It's truly amazing that often "bisexual and transgender" is left out of such descriptions.

Led by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, organization across the country have taken steps to ensure our

movement is recognized at the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality movement.

Examples:

- "The Gay And Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) is the nation's lesbian and gay media advocacy organization, promoting fair, accurate and inclusive representation as a means of combating homophobia and all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity."
- "The Georgia Equality Project envisions a society where all may acknowledge their sexual orientation or identity without fear of discrimination or reprisals."
- "The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has worked to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people at the local, state and national level since its inception in 1973. As part of a broader social justice movement for freedom, justice and equality, NGLTF is creating a world that respects and celebrates the diversity of human expression and identity where all people may fully participate in society." It seems so easy...just amend the mission statement(s).

Clarence Bagby,
Board of Directors National Gay and Lesbian Task Force,
via e-mail



Renteria



VIEWPOINT

What's in a name?

by KATRINA C. ROSE

Greater Houston Gay And Lesbian Chamber of Commerce President Anita Renteria, (Viewpoint, 'Addressing the Chamber's inclusiveness', *Houston Voice*, April 30), stated that it is "surprising" to her that "the words 'gay and lesbian' come across as disenfranchising to some."

By themselves, they don't. It is their use or misuse that can create disenfranchisement and leave a residue of hostility, although I know that harm is not intended every time that bisexual and transgendered are not uttered along with gay and lesbian. But, sometimes harm and exclusion are intended.

Human Rights Campaign and U.S. Rep. Barney Frank have a long history of ganging up to exclude TGs from the proposed federal ENDA bill. The Maryland Free State Justice Campaign stood by and allowed TGs to be excised from that state's proposed civil rights law (which, subsequently, failed to get out of the legislature).

Locally, the GHGLCC (the Chamber) seems to have a problem with speaking transgender's name—at least when and where it counts. I don't view Renteria as being mean. I truly think that she just doesn't understand. I don't want to imply that the Chamber doesn't allow TG members. They do; I'm one. But, there's a difference between taking my money and actually including me.

Renteria claims that GHGLCC's mission statement is inclusive of transgendered people because we are allegedly

included in the words "supportive individuals." Damn it, I am not simply a 'supportive individual', I am one of those who needs support right along with gays and lesbians. In other words, I am a part of the community that a community organization is supposed to serve.

More than a few people hide behind the alphabet soup phobia—fearing that adding B and T to an organization's name might make it too much of a mouthful. This is actually a legitimate concern, but is no justification for overall exclusion.

As far as I can tell, most transgendered people are more than willing to be simply part of the mission statement. I'd rather be left out of the name and be mentioned where it counts than vice versa. Think about it: HRC could add transgender to its name, but if they were to continue to screw us on the ENDA front, what would that place in the name be worth? And I still hear that transgender issues aren't gay issues.

Yes, some issues are unique to TGs. And some are unique to gay men, lesbians and bisexuals. But, like gays and lesbians, I've been driven into bankruptcy because I could not find a job in the field that I'm qualified to work in—all because I'm honest about who I am. Young transgendered people are thrown out into the street—all because they are honest about who they are. Vindictive ex-spouses gain custody of children—all because the other spouse is similarly honest. All of the above drive people to drink, despair and suicide. All

of the above we all share.

Renteria's column didn't delve into the context in which all of the local hubbub about GHGLCC's inclusiveness arose. When local internet activist network HAN-net was approached about a possible association with the Chamber, there were some decidedly fiery e-mails from both camps across the network, including some negative history between TG's and the Chamber.

I will state for the record that I personally have never experienced any problems when dealing with the Chamber. However, the Chamber's mission statement leaves a bad taste in my mouth every time that I hear it read aloud at meetings. The mission part of the mission statement—included by Anita in her column—does not include TGs, but the disclaimer—which she did not mention—does include gender identity. That disclaimer says that membership in it should not infer a particular sexual orientation or gender identity. I can't state my position any clearer than this: If we can be mentioned specifically in a disclaimer, then we can be mentioned specifically in the mission of the organization that the disclaimer refers back to. Period. If there is a problem with doing so, then I have no choice but to feel as though there is a problem with transgenders in general. Consequently, I cannot feel like "supportive individuals" really does include us.

I'm tired of feeling the need to say, "Transgenders threw the first stones at Stonewall." Transgendered people have long felt as though we were kicked out

of our own movement by yuppified homosexuals who, after managing to get a few rights for themselves, suddenly declared TGs to be a bit too queer to be part of the lavender freedom bus. We are constantly told to either ride at the back of the bus or to get off of it entirely.

If one percent of the energy being spent on maintaining exclusion was spent on being inclusive, then the united front that we could throw up against the rabid skunk religionists who control our government would be seamless and impenetrable.

Acknowledging transgendered people as part of the community that GHGLCC serves is a step that should be taken. Inclusion or exclusion? Big or bigotry? The Chamber of Commerce has a choice to make. And the time to make it is now—just in time for the 30th anniversary of Stonewall.

Katrina C. Rose is an attorney in Houston and a board member of the Gulf Coast Transgender Community and the Texas Association for Transsexual Support.

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The Mostly Unfabulous Social Life of Ethan Green

by Eric Orner

One Day Gossiping On line With Ethan Green

So, I've heard that the Jason Chang-3-way marriage is on the rocks..(click on Send)

Really? Do tell..(click on send)

I really shouldn't. I'd like to, but oh, I really mustn't..(click on send)

Spare me the Hamlet, Harriette, & Spill..

Eeth Terry (in Charlotte)

Jason told me himself..(click on send)

He told you? When? (Send)

Well, um.. Doug was visiting his parents again, and... I was feeling a little..y'know, neglected.. (send)

TAPPA TAPPA TAPPA TIKKA TIKKA TIKKA

..We haven't resolved the whole moving-in-together issue.. Anyway, I met up with Jason, and we had a little...um.. encounter..(click on Send)

Does Doug know? (Send)

Yeah, I told him later. He says as long as I'm Sure about Who I love..(click on Send)

Are You? (send)

Yes.. (click on Send)

So what about Jason's thing with Tim & Carlos?

Well, just between you and I, Jason's totally fed up. Tim makes him check in to a hotel whenever Carlos's family comes to visit. And Jason and Carlos argue a lot because Carlos gets crazy-jealous whenever another guy so much as smiles at Jason, y'know, like a waiter, or a neighbor passing on the street..

"TRA GLASS" OIL ON BOARD 1977

..and I doubt the three of them are even sleeping together at the moment, what with that erectile dysfunction trouble brought on by Tim's substance abuse...And Jason's unhappiness is clearly causing him to put on weight.

(Click on forward to entire mailing list accidently)

OH SHIT!

YOUR MAIL HAS BEEN SENT TO EVERY LAST LIVING SOUL ON THE PLANET.

Moments later in front of monitors all across this Great land..

THAT BUBBET-MOUTH BITCH

At Jason's work.

OH GOD HE'S ON-LINE AGAIN... CALL THE NATIONAL GUARD!

At Doug's

WOW WHOEVER THIS OBESE IS, HE JUST REALLY PISSEDOFF HIS GIRL-FRIENDS

Somewhere in the Hollywood Hills..

Mr. PRESIDENT, WE'VE GOT SOME BIG FAGS BEHIND HERE!

At the State Department

THAT'S NOT GOOP

Chez Hat Sister

Violent assault becomes rallying cry for activists

by LAURA BROWN

WASHINGTON, DC—"If you dream of a world in which you can walk down the street holding your lover's hand, then hold her hand, and you will live in such a world," U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis) the country's first openly lesbian member of Congress said at the opening plenary of the 1999 Lesbian Rights Summit in the nation's capital, recently. But the following morning, shaken students from Ohio State University stood before the next plenary session to tell more than 800 conference participants that "the rest of the world isn't ready for our world yet, and we need to be doing things now so that we can live in our world safely."

After the first day of summit activities ended, a group of attendees from Ohio State went to the Hung Jury, a women's bar located in downtown D.C. As they waited for a cab outside the bar around 3 a.m., a pair of drunken men approached them, and one ran his hands down one of the summit participant's face and body. When Sile Singleton, coordinator for gay student services at Ohio State, attempted to intervene, she said the man turned on her, loosening his belt and unbuttoning his pants. When Singleton attempted to kick him away, she said the man punched her in the face, dislocating her jaw. "What I would like to ask you to do is to get my back," Singleton told the plenary, her voice muffled by her swollen jaw. "I want people



The 1999 Lesbian Rights Summit ended April 25 with a protest led by NOW President Patricia Ireland, with microphone.

to react to this, and I want us to use this to the fullest extent to let people know that we are not going to stand up here and tolerate this."

By the evening of April 24, hundreds of conference attendees had organized a night march through the streets of Washington to picket on the sidewalk where Singleton had been assaulted less than 24 hours before. National Organization of Women President Patricia Ireland also called attention to the attack, as the three-day

summit ended with a rally at the U.S. Supreme Court to advocate for the passage of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which was scheduled for hearings in the U.S. Senate. After listing Singleton's assault along with the now well-known hate crimes perpetrated against Texan James Byrd Jr., Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard and Alabaman Billy Jack Gaither, Ireland called on President Bill Clinton and Vice-President Al Gore to expand upon their public endorsements of the act. "They need to do more than just

pay lip service, they need to expand some political capital," Ireland said. "They need to put some of their political chips on the line. They owe us big time."

March controversy continues

While Saturday's "Take Back the Night" march became the summit's rallying point, it was another march the Millennium March on Washington planned for April 30, 2000 that provided the most controversy of the weekend. Since it was announced last year, the Millennium March has drawn intense criticism from those who feel that the two organizations giving initial leadership to the march the Human Rights Campaign and the Universal Federation of Metropolitan Community Churches took too much of a top-down approach, without seeking the input of grassroots activists and diverse organizations before issuing a public call for the march.

The march, which organizers have said will focus on family and faith, has since become a lightning rod for a larger debate over the future direction of the gay rights movement: Should organizations take a narrow focus on specific concerns like same-sex marriage and employment non-discrimination that can easily be defined as "gay issues?" Or, should the "LGBT movement" define itself as part of a broader progressive movement also working on issues like racism, sexism, economic

See **Violent** on Page 15

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Q: Will God forgive anything? A: How can you and I begin to fathom the depth and height and breadth of God's grace and love? It was out of the heart of a loving God that forgiveness was birthed. I believe that forgiveness is where the understanding of God's love is couched. Forgiveness is saying, "I don't hold this wrongdoing against you." Forgiveness is NOT saying, "You didn't do anything wrong." Wrongs have been done by ALL of humanity. There is not one person who has lived their life free of a wrong-doing in God's eyes. In fact the Bible says, "For all have sinned and fallen short of God's glory." In other words, "Everyone's messed up at one time or another. None of us have reached our full potential in God." Some of us in our rationalization have categorized sin to be "tiny sins" or "grave sins." Jesus didn't seem to label sins into categories. Even when the woman was caught in the act of adultery, Jesus simply said to the crowd who was ready to stone her, "Let the one who is without sin cast the first stone." The "tiny" sins seem to be the ones we easily forgive. The "grave" sins are more difficult to forgive. God is the only one who has a big enough heart to forgive EVERY SIN with no strings attached. In fact, God even forgets our sin! Now that's a deal! Unfortunately as humans we have a pretty good memory. It keeps coming up again and again. We tend to remind ourselves of what we've done or not done, and what others have done to us. That's where we get into trouble. Forgiving ourselves is many times more difficult than receiving God's forgiveness. When Jesus died on the cross it was for the sins of the world. This means that every possible sin that humanity could ever commit was paid for in full by the life of Jesus Christ. If you think that a sin is so great that even God could not forgive it, then you would be saying that Jesus' life blood was not sufficient to cover your sin. Even if you think that, it is not true. Jesus' life was enough for you. What you must do is learn to receive from God. Open up your heart and let God come in and love you enough so that you can believe what God wants to say to you. No sin is too great, for our God is greater. No pit is too deep, for our God is deeper still. No ocean is too wide, for God walks on the water to meet you. No valley is too low, for God is with you even in the valley of death. There is no place that we can go to escape the presence, love and forgiveness of God.



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Gay Bud Light advertisement lauded for approach

by GIP PLASTER

A new Bud Light ad depicting two men holding hands, Anheuser-Busch's first overtly gay advertisement, has drawn a positive response from many—but not all—gay and lesbian community leaders. St. Louis-based Anheuser-Busch, the maker of Bud Light, has long been an advertiser in gay and lesbian publications and has frequently supported gay and lesbian events across the nation, but the new ad is the first time the company's advertising has depicted gay people.

The ad, which appeared in *EXP* Magazine, a free gay and lesbian publication in St. Louis, carries Bud Light's advertising slogan "Be Yourself and Make It a Bud Light" and the tagline "Proud Sponsor of the St. Louis PrideFest'99." PrideFest is St. Louis' annual gay pride event. Bud Light refused to speak with the *Houston Voice* despite repeated requests for information. Some sources believe the company may be limiting what it says about the ad because of a large consumer response both in opposition to and in support of

the ad. The company issued a three-sentence statement instead of answering specific questions.

"It is surprising to us that one print ad placed in select gay-oriented magazines has attracted attention," the statement said. "Today's consumer is not one of a specific gender, race, geography or orientation. We appreciate and respect the views of all our customers." James Raney, the alternative lifestyle manager for the brand, told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch last week that the brewery has marketed to the gay and lesbian community for more than 20 years, but that this is the first ad that features gay people. Anheuser-Busch recognizes the risks of

what is called niche marketing—advertising aimed at specific population segments—but Raney said the company "practices diversity in its marketing."

The company has not announced other cities or publications in which the ad will run, but a Pride Committee of Houston official said the ad will run here. Bud Light is a major sponsor of the Houston gay pride parade and is entitled to an ad in the Pride Guide.

"They give a generous donation to us and they've been involved for up to 15 years," Jack Valinski, the committee's head of technology said. Valinski said he thinks the ad is well done and is pleased that it will be running in the guide. "The ad is incredibly tasteful. It's very subdued," he said. "The reality is that this is long overdue."

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and other groups have called on gays and lesbians to contact Anheuser-Busch in support of the new ad, but not everyone in the community favors the ads. Warren Blemenfeld, an author and the editor of the academic *Journal of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Identity*, said he wrote an article several years ago that focused on the ways in which tobacco and alcohol companies target "marginalized and stigmatized" communities. According to his conclusions, these com-



panies contribute to a higher rate of tobacco use and alcoholism. "I, therefore, have mixed reactions to the announcement that Anheuser-Busch is targeting the gay community by depicting two men holding hands in their advertising—and I use the word 'target' quite deliberately," he said. "While it is important to increase our visibility, I have enormous misgivings and am extremely uncomfortable over any company or industry that markets [alcohol or tobacco] to our communities."

The Bud Light brand provides more than \$200,000 in money and products to 1998 gay and lesbian pride events in cities across the country, including Atlanta, Houston, San Francisco and New York, a company spokesperson said before the ad was announced. Bud Light also announced last week that it has been named the "official beer" of the International Gay Rodeo Association, an organization it has supported in the past.

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FILM AND GENERAL PRODUCTIONS (London)

DISTRIBUTED BY MGM DISTRIBUTION CO.



IN THEATRES MAY 14

Three dead, 70 injured in London gay bar bombing

by REX WOCKNER

Three people were killed and 70 were injured, 19 of them seriously, when a nail-bomb ripped through a gay bar in the heart of London's gay Soho district April 30. The 6:37 p.m. blast destroyed the Admiral Duncan pub's facade and roof. One victim was hurled 40 feet across Old Compton Street.

"It looked as though everyone was blown out into the street," witness Jim Davies told the BBC. "It is absolute carnage." "The guy I tried to help out of the pub had no leg left," patron Simon Edwards told *The Times*. "He was crying out so much. His entire leg below the left knee was blown off. I just could not believe my eyes. I cannot believe it now. I just can't believe someone would do this to the peaceful gay community."

A neo-Nazi organization called White Wolves claimed responsibility for the blast in a phone call to the BBC. The group is believed to be an offshoot of the fascist organization Combat 18. The White Wolves also claimed responsibility for recent bombings that targeted blacks and Bengalis and injured 46 people. But on May 2, police arrested David Copeland, a 22-year-old engineer, and said he was solely responsible for all



Gays march down London's Old Compton Street May 1 after a bomb exploded at the gay pub Admiral Duncan April 30, killing 3 people and injuring 70 others.

three explosions and was not a member of any group. Copeland was taken into custody at his home in Cove, southwest of London, and charged with murder. He appeared in court May 3, accused of the three nail bomb attacks in London which have killed three people and left more than 100 injured. Copeland is fac-

ing three murder charges, and three charges of causing an explosion with intention to endanger life. The hearing lasted five minutes and the defendant, who works on the London Jubilee Line extension (rail transit), was remanded in custody to appear at the court again, May 10.

Home Secretary Jack Straw called the Soho bombing "a terrible outrage committed by people with no humanity." "We are dealing with people who have warped minds, right-wing extremists who are obviously racist and homophobic," Straw said. "These bomb attacks have been specifically targeted at members of minority communities, African-Caribbeans at Brixton, Bangladeshi and Jewish people

in Brick Lane and now gay people. But attacks on these communities are attacks on all of us—black, Asian, white, Irish and Jewish, gay or straight—on all British people, on the whole of our society."

Queen Elizabeth said, "I was deeply shocked by the further bomb attack in Central London this evening. Please pass my heartfelt sympathy to the families of those who died and to the many people who were injured in this dreadful crime."

Peter Tatchell, spokesman for the direct-action gay group OutRage!, said the bombing, "shatters the complacent assumption that gay people can take social acceptance for granted. It shows that there are no safe and secure neighborhoods for homosexuals and that we are still vulnerable to violent attack."

Prime Minister Tony Blair said, "The only good that can come out of these nail bombs is that they spur all of us, whatever race, age, creed or sexuality, to work harder to build the one nation Britain that the decent majority want, and to bring our community closer together."

—Associated Press contributed to this story

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Cigarette
Smoke Contains Carbon Monoxide.

KAMEL SMOKE RINGS TRAVEL
IN BETTER CIRCLES.

KAMEL

Cigarettes
Est. 1913



16 mg. "tar", 1.2 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

H.A.T.C.H. home to future community leaders

Prom from page 1

Since some of the youth may not have adequate funds for formal attire, there is no dress code.

"The goal is for everyone involved to have a great time in a prom atmosphere and raise funds to keep making life better for the kids," said Dalton.

H.A.T.C.H. has long been recognized for providing a safe haven for gay and lesbian youth in the age range of 13 to 20 years to socialize and receive support from others in their age range as well as by trained adults.

"There has been phenomenal growth in

awareness about H.A.T.C.H. and growth in the numbers of gay and lesbian youth taking advantage of the organization," said Dalton.

"These kids are all self-identified about their sexual orientation and come here to be with others like them to better understand themselves and to establish the kinds of companionship with other youth that is not safe or possible at their high schools", he added. About 40 to 50 youth attend each weekly meeting with about 1,000 kids participating on a yearly basis.

In fact, growth has caused H.A.T.C.H. to hire its first paid staff member to coor-

dinate the adult volunteers and maintain the continuity required to keep H.A.T.C.H. effective.

"This necessary additional cost to our operating budget makes fund-raising an even more important factor with this years Prom Night," said Dalton.

"H.A.T.C.H. makes a sometimes life saving impact upon these kids and the adult volunteers provide positive role models that makes a big difference in their lives," he added.

Not only are youth important to the future of society in general, youth involved with H.A.T.C.H. have a great

potential to be the leaders of our community later on in life because of their early age participation in H.A.T.C.H. and seeing the value in being an active part of a community.

"So many people I know, including myself wish there had been a H.A.T.C.H. when they were in high school, it would have made growing up gay a less traumatic and lonely experience," said Dalton.

INFO

H.A.T.C.H.
713-942-7002

Protest ends summit

Violent from Page 10

empowerment, organized labor and environmental justice?

Summit attendees encompassed both extremes and every point in between, from those who proudly wore their "DC in Y2K" buttons to those including several plenary speakers who loudly denounced the Millennium March at every opportunity. Urvashi Vaid, director of the National Gay And Lesbian Task Force's public policy institute, criticized the March as too "symbolic" in the face of the need for "a more materialistic, muscular politics of voter mobilization and coalition building and organizing for economic transformation."

"Why is it that we inside the queer movement find ourselves subject to the desires and call of symbolic politics rather than materialist politics?" she asked. "In other words, what does it mean that in an era of instability and violence, we are urged to engage in the symbolic ritual of a national march on Washington?" National Black Lesbian And Gay



Singleton: 'Get my back'

Leadership Forum Chair Willa Taylor, whose speech followed Vaid's, was more direct in her criticism. "We don't need a movement with Millennium Marches, catchy slogans and corporate sponsors. ...We must now work to connect the dots of the -isms that separate us," she said.

But while Ireland sought to position her organization as a bridge between those supporting the march and those opposed by the summit's end, the controversy appeared no closer to resolution. Just a few hours after appearing with HRC Executive Director

Elizabeth Birch on a panel of lesbian leaders at the Summit's closing meeting, NGLTF Executive Director Kerry Lobel announced her resignation from the Millennium March national planning board and the withdrawal of the Task Force from the planning process.

Despite disagreement over the Millennium March, the diverse group of summit attendees and speakers did agree on two primary strategies to move the lesbian rights forward: more visibility, and more inclusion.

"In a world too filled with half-truths and whole lies, those of us who are out are perceived as being honest," Rep. Baldwin said, recounting how being out helped her, even with her political candidacy.

Retired Col. Grethe Cammermeyer, who won reinstatement to the U.S. military after being singled out for discharge after disclosing her sexual orientation, echoed Baldwin's sentiment, although her own congressional bid ended in defeat last year.

NGLTF's Vaid was one of many

Summit speakers calling for the gay rights movement to become a movement for broad, progressive social change. "I fear we are not being loud or militant enough inside the GLBT movement in demanding a persistent focus on gender inequality, economic justice and racial justice," she said.

Organizers of the summit, billed as a "feminist strategy session for lesbians and allies," also initiated a process to make sure all voices not just those of high-profile speakers had a chance to weigh in on the movement's goals.

Houston needs to step forward for AIDS

Walk from page 1

Buzz, *Houston Health & Fitness*, *Houston SideWalk.com*, *OutSmart*, *Texas Triangle*, *This Week in Texas* and *Uptown Health And Spirit*.

The walk is produced by AIDS Foundation Houston which is just one of the many benefiting agencies along with AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area, AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas, Association For The Advancement of Mexican Americans, Body Positive/Houston Wellness Center, CASA, City of Hope, Colt 45's, Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, PWA Coalition of Houston, Southeast Texas Legal Clinic, Steven's House and The Assistance Fund.

"Incredible progress has been made in the fight against HIV/AIDS" said Sara Selber, executive director of AHF, "but a cure has not been found and we must not confuse hope with victory."

According to the foundation statistics, one in every 90 Houstonian is HIV positive. Selber adds, "It's time for Houston to take a step for AIDS."

INFO

AIDS Walk Houston

May 16
9 a.m. start (check in at 8 a.m.)
George R. Brown Convention Center
1001 Convention Center Blvd.,
Pre-registration required
713-524-AIDS
www.aids-help.org

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12 Minutes

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Dennis Draper
Paul Bonin-Rodriguez
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Ray Hill
Daaimah Mubashshir
S.T. Shimi



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The Queer Edition

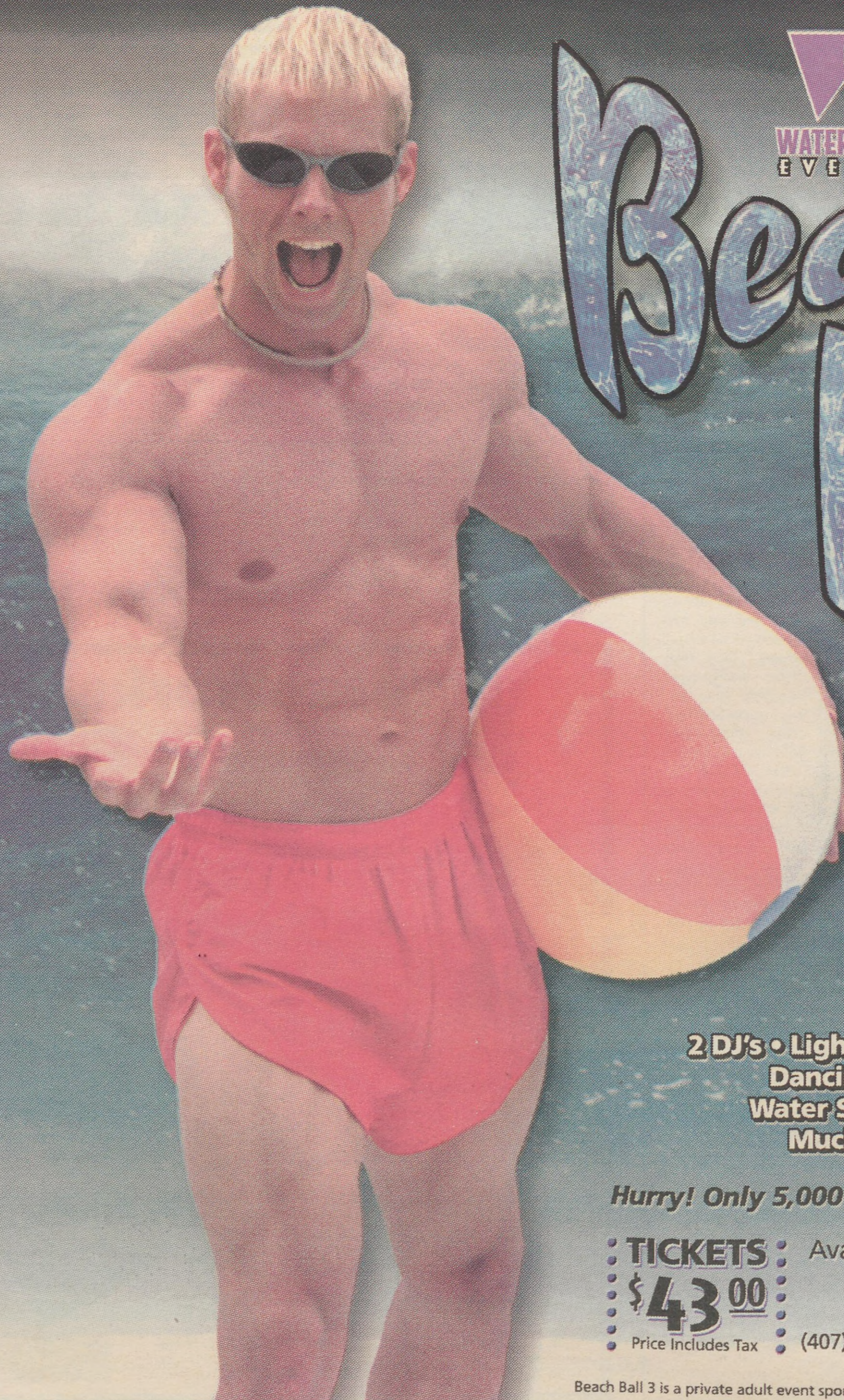
Friday, May 14 8pm

at DiverseWorks, 1117 East Freeway (I-10 & N. Main)

For reservations call 713/228-0914

Houston
Voice

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Beach Ball 3 is a private adult event sponsored by Watermark Events. Tickets are non-refundable.

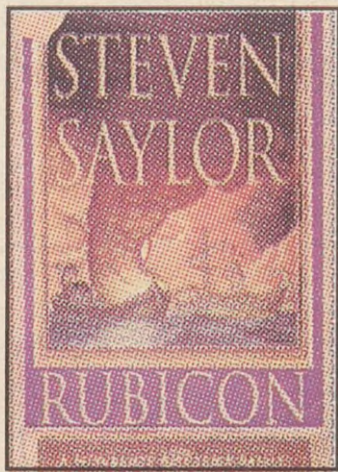
UPCOMING EVENTS

May 9

At 7 p.m. it's **Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas** night at the southwestern premier of "The Last Session." The musical is at the Little Room Downstairs, 2326 Bissonnet. Tickets are \$20, 713-526-4671.

May 10

6 p.m. meet gay writer **Steven Saylor**, he will be at **Murder By The Book**, 2342 Bissonnet promoting "Rubicon" the latest in his series of Ancient Roman mysteries. There is no cost, 713-524-8597 or www.murderbooks.com.



May 11



"**Footloose**" the musical, 8 p.m. Jones Hall. Tickets \$25-\$49.50, 713-629-3700.

Daytimer alert—May 16

"**Evening Song Of Praise**" a benefit concert at 4 p.m. for the Kolbe Project. The event will be held at the University of St. Thomas' St. Basil Chapel. 713-861-1800.

Ongoing:

Mondays from 3-6 p.m. **AIDS Foundation Houston Creative Writing Class** with writer Greg Rodriguez. For information, 713-623-6796.

Bi-Net Houston meets Wednesdays 7-9 p.m. to support health-conscious bisexuality and is open to all women and men exploring or questioning their sexuality. All meetings are confidential. 713-467-4380.

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. **Twenty Something** gathers to address issues concerning bisexuals, lesbians and gay men. Information and location, 713-315-6786

MEDIA DIET

Read it—

Poz celebrates five years of publication with its May issue featuring a front page pull out, a la *Vanity Fair*. The issue contains some very insightful commentaries on AIDS at the millennium and a year by year look at *Poz's* past pages and issues of concern of the community.

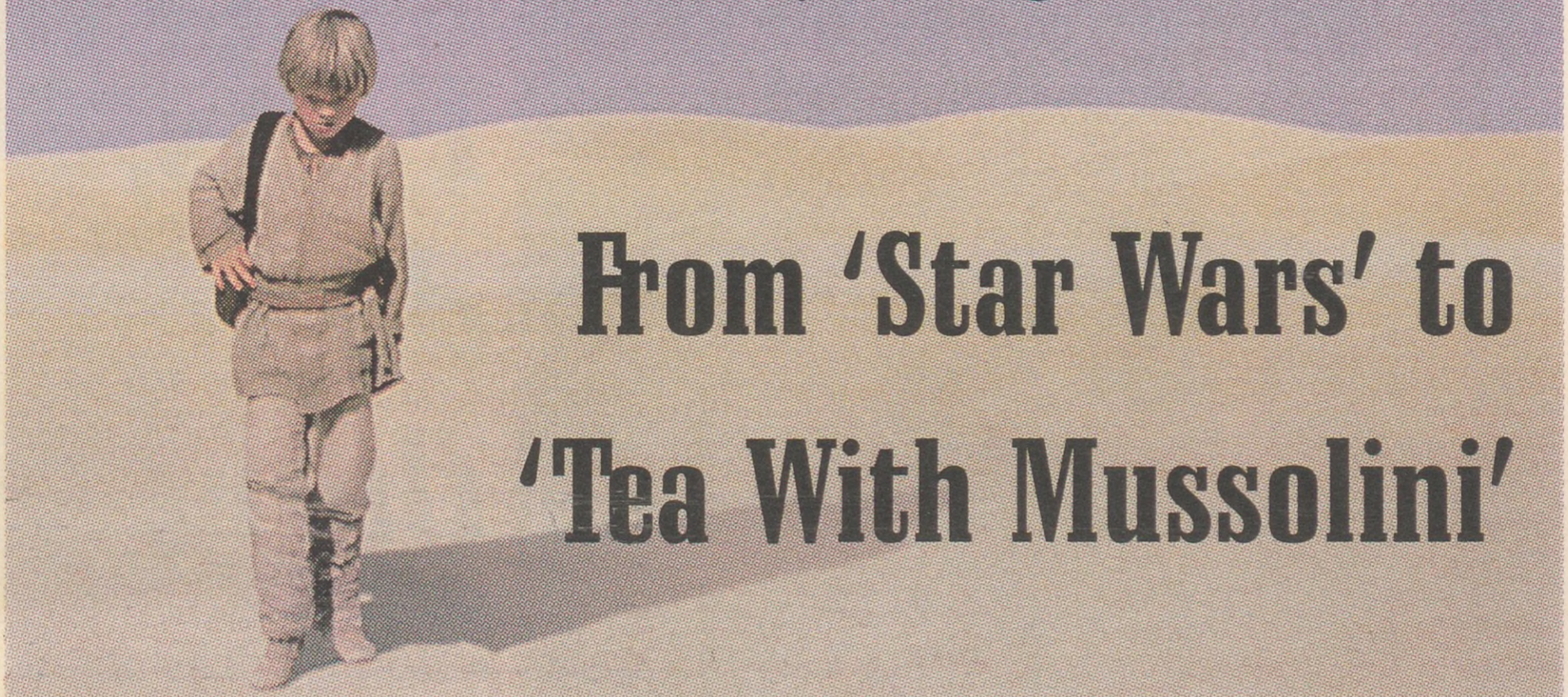


—Anthony Connolly

Out on the Bayou

HOUSTON VOICE • MAY 7, 1999
A GUIDE FOR YOUR LEISURE TIME

Houston Voice summer film preview guide



From 'Star Wars' to 'Tea With Mussolini'

by EARL DITTMAN

Besides what promises to be the biggest film in the entire galaxy—"Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace"—there are close to 134 other films scheduled to invade your neighborhood multiplex this summer. So, constructing a guide to films that promise to be best of the season is both a daunting and highly subjective task. But, we think we know our readers, and we strongly believe these are a few of these films you'd hate yourself for missing. (We've purposely omitted films that are to be screened at the upcoming Houston Gay And Lesbian Film Festival, May 28—June 6, because, later in the month, *Houston Voice* will be devoting a special section to the event). Most importantly, just remember, all opening dates are subject to change (Hollywood has a lot of trouble making up its mind).

"Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace"

The brains: George Lucas.

Cast: Ewan McGregor, Liam Neeson, Natalie Portman, Jake Lloyd, Samuel L. Jackson.

The Plot: Who cares? The fact that Lucas has returned to the ground-breaking series is reason enough to shell-out your hard-earned \$7 bucks to see it. But, here is what we do know: In the first of three planned prequels, we'll be reintroduced to Jabba The Hut and Yoda, as well as younger versions of Obi-Wan-Kenobi (McGregor) and Anakin Skywalker (Lloyd). And, for the first time, we'll meet Luke and Princess Leia's mother, Queen Amidala (Portman). Beyond that, you'll have to wait until May 19 to find out how their actions impact this summer's box office and a galaxy, far, far away.

The Lowdown: Every studio in Tinseltown has had to reshuffle their summer schedules in fear of being over-

shadowed by "The Phantom Menace." It's a phenomenon one of its veteran stars finds highly amusing. "Every studio likes to think they have the biggest d**k in town," Samuel L. Jackson said jokingly. "The people who run them will tell you they are not afraid of any film or anybody. It's been like that for years. But, 'Star Wars' has them all running around like little scared rabbits. They finally have to admit someone has a bigger one than theirs, and it's George Lucas. It's utter delight to see some of these ego-maniacs finally humbled." (May 19)

"Austin Powers, The Spy Who Shagged Me"



The brains: Mike Myers.

Cast: Mike Myers, Heather Graham, Elizabeth Hurley, Rob Lowe, and Robert Wagner. Directed By Jay Roach.

The Plot: Our groovy super spy from the '60s, Austin Powers (Myers), is forced to return to the peace and love decade

after the maniacal Dr. Evil (also Myers) travels back in time to destroy our hairy hero. But, in this sequel, Powers has more than his razor-sharp, Bond-like wit to help him defeat his nemesis. For "AP2" he partners-up with beautiful "Powers"—girl, Felicity Shagwell (Graham), to, once again, save the world.

The Lowdown: The box office success of 1997's "Austin Powers: International Man Of Mystery" came as a surprise to everyone, even its creator, "Saturday Night Live" alum, Mike Myers. "None of us had any idea it would do as well as it did, we just thought it would turn out to be this little cult film," said Myers, who last appeared on big screens in "54" as gay club impresario Steve Rubell. "I think people really dug Austin, because he was a 'not-so-serious' international spy. More so, I think they liked seeing all the groovy fashions and hearing all the groovy music from that '60s, Carnaby Street, era. They hadn't seen that in films in a while. That's why we decided to give them a lot more of it in "The Spy Who Shagged Me." (June 11)

"Better Than Chocolate"

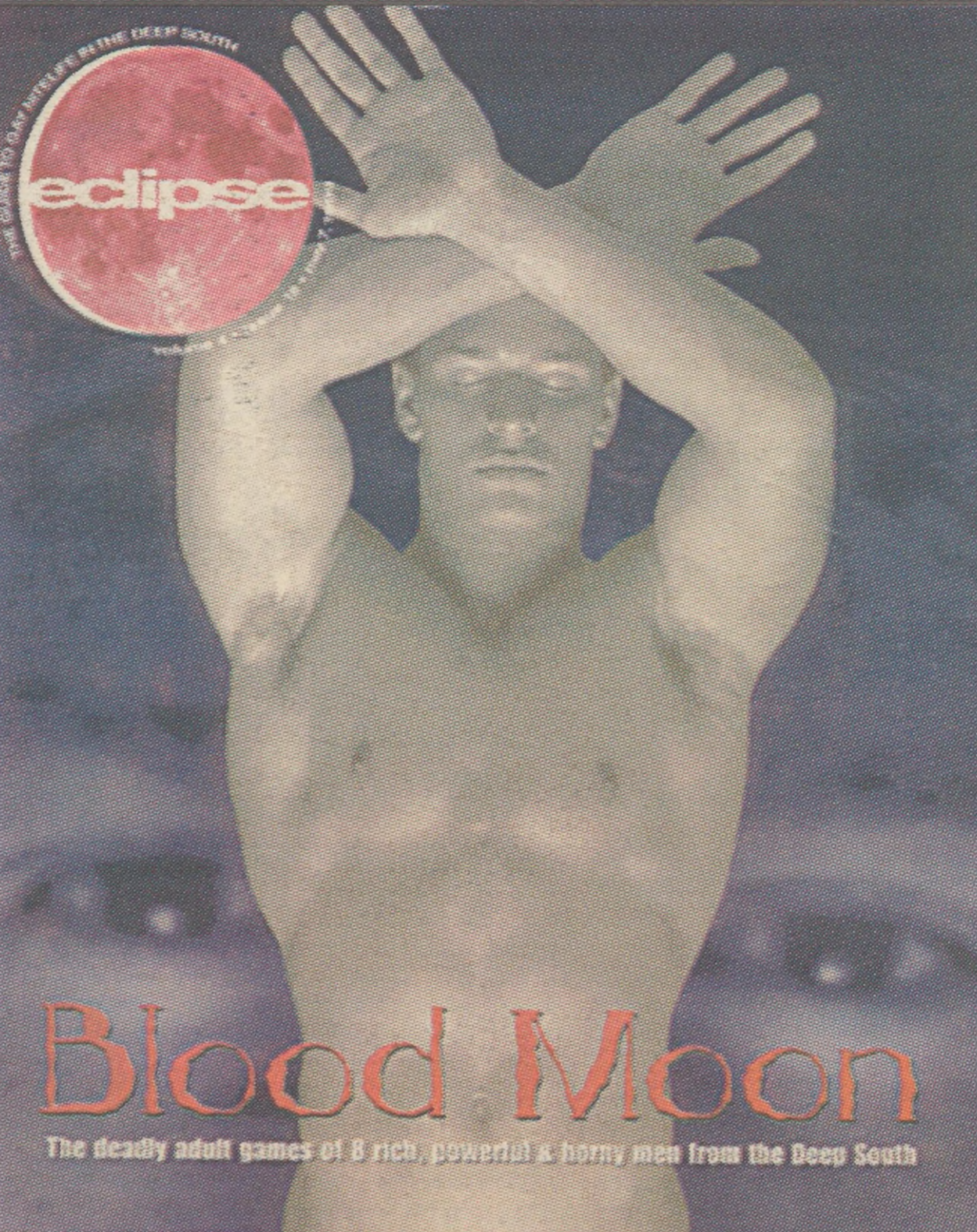
The brains: Director Anne Wheeler.

Cast: Wendy Crewson, Karyn Dwyer,



> See Film page 30

Blood Moon



blood moon

The deadly adult games of 8 rich, powerful & horny men from the Deep South

filth

continuing tour of GLADD Awards, Kerr Smith, Eric McCormack, lusty Lucy Lawless, gay-friendly Stephen Baldwin and oh so delicious Casper Van Dien—something for everyone

need wood?

Woody won't lick ya and leave ya—he'll give you more than a mouthfull of his sage sex advice

scene and heard

Cuervolyn spins her usual mix of lies, blended with some gossip and half-truths

you've got male

the information superhighway even has rest stops for gay porn stars, and Jim Buck—an adult film star in his own right—is your guide



AVAILABLE AT LOCATIONS ALL OVER HOUSTON

Feets, do your thing



► Spring brings dance to Bayou City

by D.L. GROOVER

Spring brings a surfeit of dancing to the Bayou City, and the festivities begin May 7 as the Houston Ballet performs alfresco at Miller Outdoor Theater in Hermann Park.

In what might be called the Generation X program, three contemporary works by a trio of young, talented choreographers will be performed this weekend.

Indigo, Flames, Patterns

Stanton Welch's "Indigo," dazzles with its whiplash brilliance and crackling high speed perpetual movement. Dominic Walsh's "Flames of Eros," is an emotion-laden ode to love. Sean Kelly's "Patterns," set to the electric music of Canadian Celtic musician Ashley MacIsaac, rocks. Witty and steamy, with a high-voltage octet of four men in kilts and four sex-kitten lassies with legs for days, drenched in a hot scheme of black and red, this is Riverdance on Viagra.

WomanSpace

Running concurrently this weekend, just in time for Mother's Day, is "Weave Dance Company" at Stages Repertory Theater. This all-women modern dance company presents its first full-length (one hour) world premiere "WomanSpace...a Rare Look Inside."

Inspired by the local artist Mary Margaret Hansen, this collaborative effort by the six choreographers is titled "a continuous dance concept." Using text and photographs, and a fore-piece exhibition leading into the theater proper, the work explores the "sacred space" of woman: what it is, where it is, what it means?

Dance Salad

If you're a connoisseur of fine dance smorgasbord, then "Dance Salad" is for you. Here, at the Cullen Theater of the Wortham Center, you can choose from a

modern sampling arrayed most tastily by the culinary chiefs from Houston Dance Coalition.

Literally, there is something for everyone. The international is represented by diverse companies from the Netherlands (the Houston first-time appearance from the Nederlands Dans Theatre II), Switzerland (Ballet du Grand Theatre de Geneve), Belgium (La Compagnie Ballet David Sonnenbluck), and a Euro-amalgam (Euregio: Tanz Forum). The choreographers showcased include the acclaimed Hans Van Manen and Nacho Duato; and a solo featuring the Prix de Lausanne winner Ayako Nakano.

For your delectation, the U.S. entrees offer up the bizarre and gymnastic Pilobolus Too, always a crowd-pleaser with its thumb-your-nose attitude; Shari Williams, the Bessie Award winning dancer from the Dayton Ballet; and the live drumming of the Harold George Company in its rifts on African dance.

Since Houston possesses some of the finest restaurants in the country, our fair city will be represented in this tossed salad of dance by the Travesty Dance Group and the jazzy, hip hop of Houston Metropolitan Dance Company.

INFO

Houston Ballet

Miller Outdoor Theater
May 6-8; 8 p.m.
Free
713-284-8350

Weave Dance Company

Stages Repertory Theater
3201 Allen Parkway at Waugh
May 7-8; 8 p.m.
\$15
713-525STAGES

Houston Dance Coalition's Dance Salad

Cullen Theater, Wortham Center
May 13-14; 7:30 p.m.
\$13-\$31
713-227-ARTS

HGO's 'Mefistofele'—This Devil gives us heaven

by RICH ARENSCHIEDT

Houston Grand Opera closes its season with a reprisal of Robert Carson's brilliantly conceived, slightly kinky interpretation of Arrigo Boito's single musical masterpiece "Mefistofele," starring America's most profound bass, Samuel Ramey in the devilishly wonderful title role as the avatar of Hades.

In "Mefistofele" HGO favorites, Ramey and soprano Patricia Racette (seen earlier this season as a splendid "Violetta" in "La Traviata") pair to give Houston audience a memorable vocal and dramatic experience.

The opera is based on Goethe's "Faust"

in which the famous rationalist philosopher is tempted by the devil, who thinks he can wager with heaven for the soul of this godly scholar. As is all of the Faustian tales, a virginal woman is subsequently seduced by young Faust, an act that results in her destruction and eventual redemption. While the plot is anything but novel, the approach of this production transforms a well-known tale of good versus evil into an event that carries an audience along with magical intensity.

This production is opera in a truly grand style. Principals, choristers, dancers and supernumeraries turn the Wortham stage into a cathedral, carnival and cave, throughout this 3 1/2 hour performance. Enormous sets, striking costumes and masses of humanity (180 of them at times) catapult this work off the stage right into your lap. "Mefistofele" is becoming more common in the repertoires of companies around the world, however, it still not performed as often as one might expect. Any production requires the strongest possible trio of singers, Mefistofele, Faust and Margherita. It also demands a large and talented opera chorus, a children's chorus, an orchestra of symphonic proportions and a conductor with enough musical nerve to keep the whole thing moving. The operatic stars are in alignment over Houston and the results are terrific.

Samuel Ramey is in one of his signature roles as Lucifer, a part he knows like his own body. This production was created expressly for him and was premiered in Geneva. This is one of the few roles where the bass steals the show. Guys that sing low notes always end up supporting other characters (usually women who jump off of parapets or dispose off themselves in other less glamorous ways). This particular role has been one that every prominent bass throughout history has claimed for his own. Ramey's bare chested portrayal of the nemesis of heav-



JIM CALDWELL/HOUSTON GRAND OPERA

Ramey

en is so convincing that it could convert Jimmy Falwell to Paganism. In fact, some of the libretto (written by Boito as well) skirts blasphemy. Satan, in a conversation with God ("The old man") refers to the smallish cherubim as "Those damn little angels" akin to some kind of flying insects.

Angels are not the only things that Mefistofele has in abundance. This opera is a showcase for the talents of any opera chorus, fortunately, HGO has one well worth hearing. Representing both heavenly and hedonistic masses, these singers convert between godly and evil with nary a spec of indecision. Their first scene prologue

(often done as a concert work) is so transcendent that the rest of the opera seems superfluous. Later the chorus cavorts with the evil one in his lair with licentious abandon.

These shifts in personality are propelled by Michael Levine's delightfully shocking costumes—their design emphasizes the roles each chorister must play. Draped and masked in amorphous angelic white, they are the quintessential ethereal choir. Descending downward during the Walpurgisnacht scene they become a mob of heinous hedonists, some with their erogenous zones, (both male and female) plastically enhanced. This came as a surprise to many in the Sunday matinee audience, some of whom probably arrived at the Wortham directly from church. The elderly lady near me was stunned and then giggled shamelessly throughout the entire scene. Throughout this show, the HGO chorus performs musically and dramatically at the top of their form.

John DeMain, former HGO music Director makes an all too rare return appearance as extremely capable conductor for this run.

Patricia Racette, in her second HGO appearance this season matches Ramey note for note. Her portrayal of the "maiden gone mad" is filled with a dramatic and vocal intensity rarely combined on the operatic stage. Opera is filled with women (and a few men) who go bonkers, however, most of the roles are executed in such an affected way as to be disbelieved.

With the summer's hellish dearth of opera ahead, HGO's "Mefistofele" may hold you until autumn.

INFO

"Mefistofele"

Houston Grand Opera
Wortham Theater
May 8, 11, 14 and 16
713-546-0246

An Official Gay Pride Event



Saturday, June 12th
8:00 pm

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Out In Print

BOOK NEWS

Local poet puts out tome on love

by ANTHONY CONNOLLY

Love has touched Donna Garrett's soul and she wants the rest of the world to get the vibe.

In her newly-released book of 26 love poems "The Spoken Touch: Poetic Expressions," the 48-year-old poet wants readers to revel in the air of amour.

"I want their auras to be green and lazy blue," Garrett said of how she would like her poetic expressions to be experienced.

"I want them to be grinning, I want them to feel love."

Garrett has been actively pursuing the manifold aspects of love and its poetic language for several years, but only in the past three years has she had the time to tame the powerful muse.

"I have been a poet all of my life, but I only began documenting my work for the past three years. When I was in the workforce, I didn't take time to do poetry. Now I'm exploring it, and I'm having

a wonderful time," the poet said.

Garrett says the comfort poetry offers is contagious.

"Poetry can offer the world peace of mind. You need somewhere your mind can go, where your mind can go and chill, to cool your mind."



Garrett

Only 300 copies of "Spoken Touch" will be available. Each copy will be numbered and autographed.

Readers interested in hearing Garrett's work live can do so at the Desert Heart Women's Festival, at Bandera, Texas, May 15-16.

The soft-spoken poet has given readings at the Austin March For Families rally, and has read her poetry at Tootpe's and Café Artisté. At the end of

July, Garrett is planning a poetry reading and book-signing.

The book is \$19.99. "That's what year it is, and it's my year. And, once they're gone, they're gone, it's a first edition, baby."

The cover art of the poetry volume was created by Garrett's partner, Shirley Basey.

INFO

"The Spoken Touch: Poetic Expressions"

by Donna Garrett
36 pages, \$19.95
available at:
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Houston, Texas 77052-2276



The cover of Garrett's book

"As She Sleeps"

I look at her as she sleeps.
I wonder if she know that?
I do it because it gives me pleasure.
She is beautiful as she sleeps.
Her skin is a dark caramel,
Seeming sweet and sticky to the eye,
More than appetizing to the sight
And arousing to me.
Her skin is smooth and taunt,
And the warmth of the color,
heats me up.
I sniff her freely, and I laugh,
For if she were awake she might object.
I continue allowing my senses to feed,
Taking in all that I need,
Never touching her, just looking at her
As she sleeps.

© Donna Garrett from
"The Spoken Touch: Poetic Expressions"

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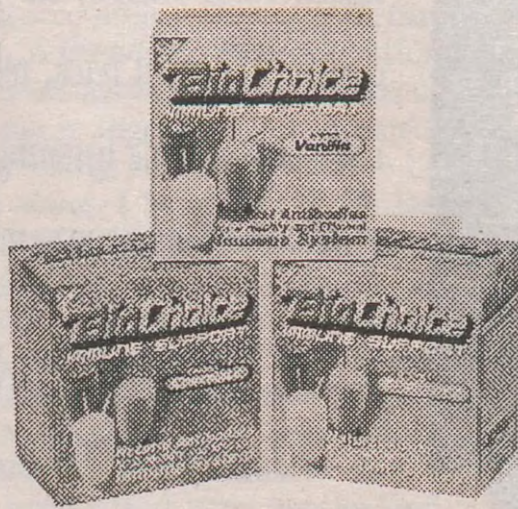
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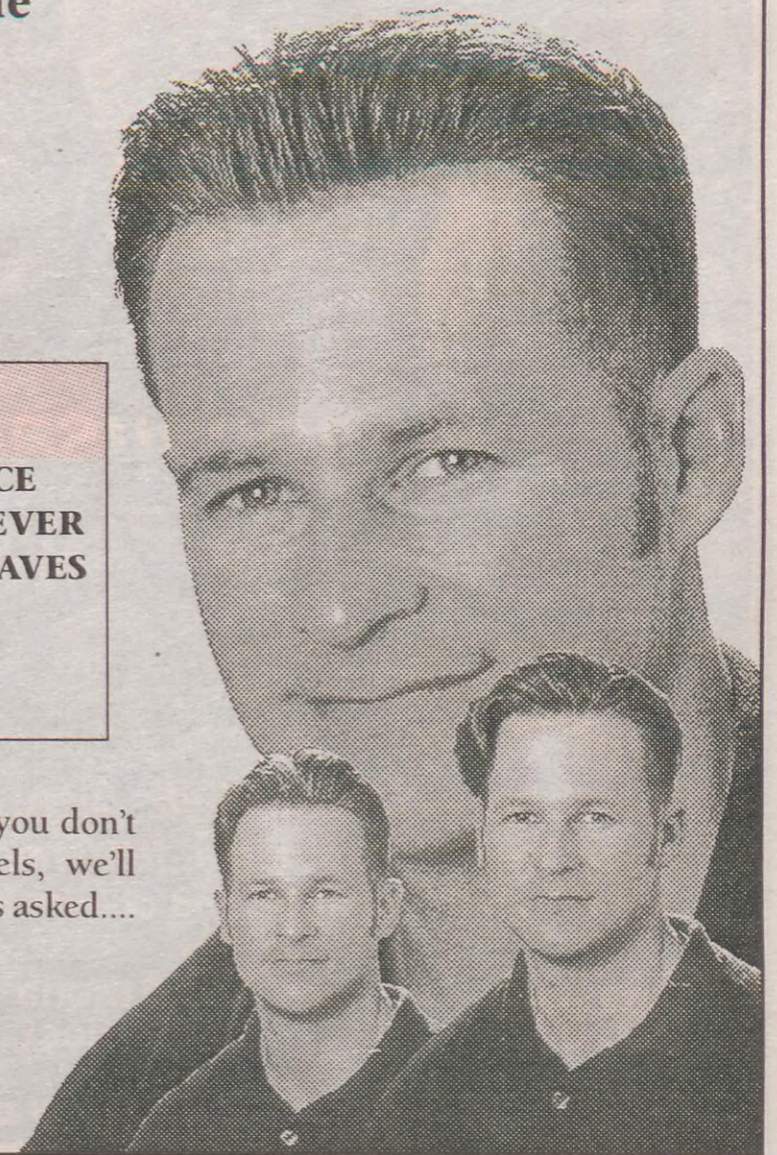
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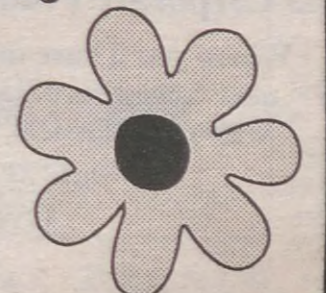
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Eating Out

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Northern Italian eatery shines

by TRAYCE DISKIN

Let me be upfront: Tutto Bene is one of my addictions.

Located in the Heights, in an unassuming cozy white house, customers dine in one of three intimate and cheerful rooms divided by stucco arches strung with tiny white lights. A friend once remarked that Tutto Bene could serve up burnt rubber as its dishes' main ingredient (it doesn't!) and the restaurant would still thrive on atmosphere alone. I believe it. Tutto Bene's environment is perhaps its most addictive quality, one that combines romantic and relaxing decor, neighborhood charm, genuine good humor, excellent service, an eccentric owner, a wandering opera singer, a jolly and skillful accordionist, and a drum march or two.

Weekend nights find both couples and large groups of friends chatting familiarly with the entertainers or wait staff. The opera singer happily takes requests, so if you didn't quite know Musetta's Waltz or La Donna Mobile verbatim upon entering, you will by your last bite of tiramisu. Then, out of nowhere, owner Andrew Rebori triumphantly strides out from the kitchen in a dark brown, Tom Jonesish wig, banging a kettle to the crescendoing beat of the Anvil Chorus from Aida.

Although this may sound like a gimmicky sideshow to the uninitiated, that's where Tutto Bene works its charm. In fact, more than any other restaurant I've tried in Houston, Tutto Bene manages all the above with a spontaneity and welcome lack of pretension. In addition to a wonderful selection of Italian wines—the house red is a perfect example—you'll find friendly customers and staff celebrating what Tutto Bene values most: genuine laughter, conversation, and seriously enjoyable dining.

And yes, this happens to include good food at very reasonable prices. The menu offers typical Northern Italian fare such as baked pastas, grilled seafood, chicken, and veal. Instead of succumbing to the experimental or trendy, the dishes are simple and hearty, with some choices better than others. The starter of garlic toast and tomato sauce slightly disappoints, the sauce tastes like any product from the grocery store shelf, and the house salad is fairly pedestrian in its combination of iceberg lettuce and tomatoes (\$1.95). Better to split a Bruschetta Salad (\$4.95) with a friend—the pillowy mozzarella couldn't be fresher and the tomatoes and fresh basil make it a winner. Also try the Mussels in Lobster-Garlic Bisque (\$4.95) or Antipasti Plate (\$6.95).

Tutto Bene serves a wide variety of entrees, divided into pastas, chicken, seafood, veal, and vegetarian. In addition, "create your own" pasta allows the diner to mix and match combinations of favorite

Tutto Bene
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FOOD FILE

Food: 🍴🍴🍴🍴
Service: 🍴🍴🍴🍴🍴
Value: 🍴🍴🍴
Scene: 🍴🍴🍴🍴🍴

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sausages with noodles of preference. Some favorites are the basic Fresca (\$6.95) with plum tomatoes, garlic, and basil, and the Clam Sauce (\$5.95). Tutto Bene avoids the common dilemma of a good pesto sauce atrophying into the Valdez oil spill at the bottom of the bowl. Their version is a rich and creamy sauce that isn't overly greasy, and beautifully coats each pasta piece. For something different, try the especially tasty Ziti Andrea (\$11.95). This dish consists of penne, chunks of seared salmon, sun-dried tomatoes in a garlic and olive oil sauce. The tender salmon mixed well with the zesty tomatoes, and the garlic adds just enough bite. A similar, usual dish for me is the Ziti Suzanna (11.95), where shrimp and artichoke hearts replace the salmon and tomatoes. Although specials tend to be uneven, try to snag the Pasta Rollante (\$13.99), cut tubes of pasta stuffed with ricotta, artichoke hearts, seared chicken breast, pine nuts, roasted peppers, and basil. With every bite, you taste something different, and instead of smothering this creation in marinara sauce, it is left on the side for controlled dipping.

While the deserts certainly don't wow the over-stuffed diner, there are some good picks. The spumoni's creamy texture deliciously holds the crunchy mint flakes, and the tiramisu is a strange but worthy enterprise. Its texture is more the consistency of cheesecake, but this makes it less crumbly.

Whether you order desert or not, you'll want to linger over a cup of cappuccino or American coffee for a long while. Maybe it's the candlelight illuminating the salmon-colored walls, or the scent of the fresh-cut carnations on your table after the last crumb disappears. Or Libiamo, the drinking song from La Traviata, is just starting up. At Tutto Bene, there's always that feeling of wanting another round.



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Gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered writers receive honor at 11th annual Lambda Literary Foundation evening in L.A.

by ELLA TYLER

The best in gay writing was celebrated April 30 in Los Angeles.

The works of Dorothy Allison, Gerry Gomez and the satire of emcee Kate Clinton were a big part of the annual awards evening.

This is the 11th year for the Lambda Literary Foundation's awards which were presented at Los Angeles' Orpheum Theater recognizing excellence in gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered literature.

Three other groups joined the Lambda Literary Foundation to present awards. The Gay and Lesbian Victory Foundation's Civic Leadership award was given to Ken Yeager for his book "Trailblazers: Profiles of America's Gay and Lesbian Elected Officials." The Monette/Horwitz Award, a \$5,000 prize for research in gay and lesbian history, was presented to Jonathan Ned Katz and Lillian Federman. The GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network) award was given to "Overcoming Heterosexism and Homophobia," edited by James T. Sears and Walter L. Williams and published by Columbia University Press.

The Lammy's for Lesbian Fiction and Gay Men's Fiction went to "Cavedweller" by Dorothy Allison, (Dutton) and, "An Arrows Flight" by Mark Merless (St.



Martins). This is Allison's second Lammy.

"The Other Side of Silence" by John Loughery (Henry Holt) was a unanimous choice to win the Gay Men's Studies award. This ambitious work documents the history of gay men in the United States from the beginning of the century. Joan Nestle's, "A Fragile Union (Cleis) was the winner for

Lesbian Studies. Cleis also published the Lesbian Poetry winner, "Marianne Faithfull's Cigarette," by Gerry Gomez.

The Gay Men's Poetry winner was J. D. McClatchy, for "Ten Commandments," published by Knopf.

"Indelible Alison Bechdel," by Alison Bechdel (Firebrand Books) won the Lesbian Biography/Autobiography award (Bechdel is a regular contributor to *Houston Voice*).

The Gay Men's Biography award went to William Mann for, "Wisecracker" (Viking).

The best Gay Men's Mystery was "Outburst" by R. D. Zimmerman (Delacourt) but, in the Lesbian Mystery category, "Blue Place" by Nicola Griffith (Avon) and "Shaman's Moon" by Sarah

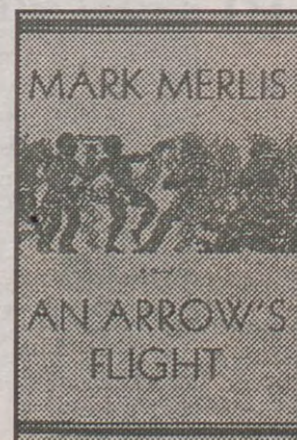
Dreher (New Victoria) tied. "Blue Place," more of a thriller than a pure mystery, is a change of genre for Griffith, who, with Stephen Pagel, co-edited "Bending the Landscape," (Overlook) one of the winners of the SF/Fantasy award. Clive Barker's "Galilee" (Harper Collins) shared the award.

The winning Fiction Anthology was "Columbia Anthology of Gay Literature," edited by Byrne R. S. Fone.

Two books were winners in the Non-fiction Anthology category: "Mom" edited by Nisa Donnelly (Alyson) and "Q&A: Queer in Asian America," edited by David L. Eng and Alice Y. Hom, (Temple University Press).

The Drama award went to "O Solo Homo" edited by Holly Hughes and David Roman (Grove Press) and the Humor award went to, "Alec Baldwin Doesn't Love Me" by Michael Thomas Ford (Alyson). Ford accepted the award saying he was grateful to Baldwin for not suing him, and grateful to the "queer bookstores who keep our books alive".

Clinton, who's book "Don't Get Me Started," was a nominee in this category, delivered a faux acceptance speech, a la



Roberto Benigni.

There were two Photography/Visual Arts winners: "The Male Nude" by David Leddick (Taschen) and "Women in Love" by Barbara Seyda and Diana Herrera (Bullfinch/Little Brown).

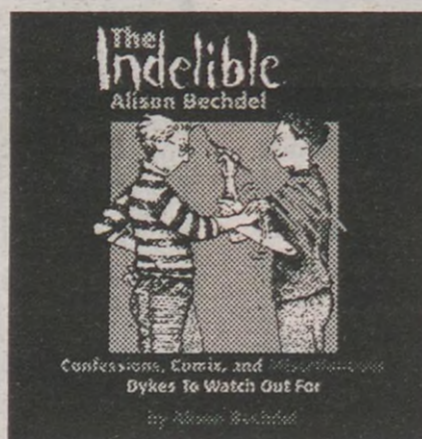
The Transgender award was given to "The Empress is A Man" by Michael Robert Gorman (Harrington Park Press).

The Small Press award goes to "the bull-jean stories" by Sharon Bridgforth, (RedBone Press) RedBone, a tiny, two-year-old business, published "Does You Mama Know?," a collection of coming out stories of black lesbians, which won Lammys in the both the Anthology and Small Press category last year.

The Publisher's Choice award, chosen by the Lambda Book Report staff to honor the best unrecognized work, went to "The Boy" by Naeem Murr, published by Houghton Mifflin.

Katherine V. Forrest was given the Pioneer Award for her long-term service to the GLBT writing and publishing industry. Forest writes the Kate Delafield mysteries, is an editor, and generous mentor to other writers.

Joan M. Drury, publisher of Spinsters Ink and part owner of Seal Press, and also a mystery writer, won the Publisher's Service Award.



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Debra Danburg
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Community Calendar

► Monday, May 10

Free HIV testing by the Montrose Clinic. The Outpost 9 p.m. to midnight. 713-520-2000.
Gay Fathers/Fathers First support group, 8 p.m. 713-861-6181.
Men Survivors of Sexual Abuse Group. Montrose Counseling Center. 6:15 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Gay Men Survivors of Domestic Violence Support Group. 713-526-1017.
Bering Support Network. Grief and Divorce Groups at 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
AIDS Caregiver's Support Group. 6 p.m. 713-732-4300.
HIV testing. Free from AVES from 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
Kolbe Project Park Plaza visitation. 713-861-1800.
AIDS Foundation Houston. Free creative writing class at 3 p.m. 713-623-6796.
FrontRunners. 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
Kolbe Project. Eucharist at 7:30 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Texas Medical Center Lambda. 5 p.m. 713-523-5539.
Integrity Houston. For gay and lesbian Episcopalians. 7:30 p.m. Autry House, 6265 Main.
Miss Camp America. Monthly meeting. 713-520-STAR.

► Tuesday, May 11

HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. Club Houston 8 p.m. to midnight 713-520-2000.
Helping Cross Dressers Anonymous. 7 p.m., 239 Westheimer. 713-495-8009.
Gay Men HIV+ Psychotherapy. Montrose Counseling Center at 4:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Youth-Rap. 6:30 p.m. 713-822-8511.
AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area. 7 p.m. 713-488-4492.
PROTECT. An HIV-negative support group at 7 p.m. 713-526-1017.
Women Survivors of Childhood Abuse. Montrose Counseling Center at 6:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Kolbe Project. Park Plaza Visitation. 713-

861-1800.
Bering Support Network. Lunch Bunch Gang at 11 a.m. 713-526-1017.
Love, Lust and Intimacy. Discussion group at 7 p.m. 713-524-2374.
Men's Network. Discussion group for social, educational development of gay and bisexual men. 7 p.m. The Montrose Counseling Center. 713-529-0037.
HIV support group. For men over 50. 7:30 p.m. Center for AIDS, 1407 Hawthorne.
Love, Lust and Intimacy. Improving communication and intimacy in relationships. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray. 713-524-2374.
Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents. Support Group. 7 p.m. 713-284-4939.
Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride Committee. Monthly meeting. 713-529-6979.

► Wednesday, May 12

Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams to people with HIV. 713-520-2000.
Houston Pride Band. Practices at Dignity Houston. 713-524-0218.
Houston Tennis Club. 7:30 p.m. 713-864-8468.
Women's Network. 7 p.m. Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond. 713-529-0037.
Ongoing Mixed Living in Process. Group for men and women. 713-622-7250.
HIV survivor support group. 7 p.m. 713-782-4050.
Free Yoga classes. 7 p.m. 713-965-9642.
Bering Spiritual Support Group. 6:45 p.m. 713-526-1017.
Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. 713-830-3000.
HIV testing. Free from AVES. 1 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. 713-626-2837.
Kolbe Project. Hospital visitation. 713-861-1800.
Houston Harpies Ice Hockey Team recruits. 713-802-1248.
Rainbow Ranglers. 8 p.m. at the BRB.
Lambda Rollerskating Club. Skating at 8 p.m. 713-933-5818.
Thomas Street Health Center Council. 2 p.m. 713-902-2231.
Healing and Happiness Through Wellness. 7 p.m. 713-623-6796.

Faith and Hope Fellowship. Service at 7:30 p.m. 713-520-7847
Maranatha Fellowship MCC. Home groups meet for fellowship, sharing God's word and prayer. 713-528-6756.
Kolbe Project. Healing Service at 8 p.m. 713-861-1800.
Healing and Happiness Through Wellness. 7 p.m. Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray. 713-623-6796.
Rainbow Roller Skating. 8 p.m. Skateworld Northwest, 9514 Anderson Mill Road.
HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. Mary's 4 to 8 p.m.; Nighthawks 8 p.m. to midnight, Mela's 8 p.m. to midnight, Gay & Lesbian Community Center 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Ripcord 9 p.m. to midnight. 713-520-2000.
Bering and Friends Annual Fund Raising Performance. Open cast call. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. 713-285-0007.
Rainbow Fishing Club. Trip to Galveston. 713-523-6381.

► Thursday, May 13

Art Labs. The Art League at 1 p.m. 713-225-9411.
Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. Open rehearsal at 7 p.m. 713-521-7464.
Living in Process Groups. For gay men. 713-622-7250.
HIV+ Men Psychotherapy. Montrose Counseling Center, 1:15 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Relapse Prevention. Montrose Counseling Center, 2 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Women's Therapy Group. Montrose Counseling Center. 5:30 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Meditation and Chanting Group. 7 p.m. 713-942-0923.
HIV Affected. CASA. 7 p.m. 713-796-2272.
HIV Survivor Support Group. 7 p.m., 2929 Unity Drive. 713-782-4050.
Center for the Healing of Racism. 7:30 p.m. 713-738-RACE.
FrontRunners at 6:30 p.m. 713-522-8021.
HIV Art Course Program. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.
HIV Prevention Community Planning Group. 9 a.m. 713-794-9251.
Women's Clinic. Montrose Clinic, 713-830-3000.
Montrose Ice Picks. Skating. 8 p.m. 713-629-1432.
Kolbe Project. Ecumenical outreach to gays. 7 p.m. 713-522-8182.
BiNet Houston. Discussion group at 7:30 p.m.

713-467-7031.
HIV/AIDS Support Group. 2:30 at Family Service Center. 713-861-4849.
Women's HIV/AIDS Support Group. 7 p.m. Family Service Center. 713-247-3810.
HIV/AIDS Support Group. 7 p.m. Family Service Center in Conroe. 888-247-3810.
HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. Brick's II 4 to 8 p.m., E/J's 5 to 9 p.m., Lazy J 8 p.m. to midnight. 713-520-2000.
HIV Prevention Community Planning Group. Monthly meeting. 713-794-9251.

► Friday, May 14

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) meets. 713-942-7002.
Houston Tennis Club at 7:30 p.m. 713-864-8468.
Aftercare Group Treatment. Montrose Counseling Center at 6 p.m. 713-529-0037.
Frost Eye Clinic. Free eye exams for people with HIV. 713-830-3000.
Lesbian Avengers. Toopee's, 1830 W. Alabama at 7 p.m.
Q-Patrol walks the streets at 8:45 p.m. 713-528-SAFE.
Kolbe Project. Park Plaza Hospital visitation. 713-861-1800.
Positive Art Workshop, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrick Palmer at 713-526-1118.
Lesbian and Gay Voices. KPFT 90.1 FM, 7 p.m. 713-526-5738.
Movie Time at the Kolbe Project. 7:30 p.m. 713-522-8182.
Mishpachah Alizim Shabbat Services. 8 p.m. 713-748-7079.
Co Dependents Anonymous. 7:30 p.m. At MCCR. 713-861-9149.
HIV Testing by the Montrose Clinic. Rich's 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. Inergy 8 p.m. to midnight, Evolution's (in Galveston) 8 p.m. to midnight. 713-520-2000.
Healing Eucharist. Christ Church Cathedral. 7 p.m. 713-222-2593.
Life Begins at Forty. Pot Luck. 713-771-4743.
Gardening and Yard Society. Monthly meeting. 713-661-6378.
Astro Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf. General meeting. 7 p.m. 701 Richmond. 713-869-2287.

To list an event, call Carolyn Roberts at 713-529-8490, or e-mail editor@houstonvoice.com. Deadline is Friday at 5 p.m.

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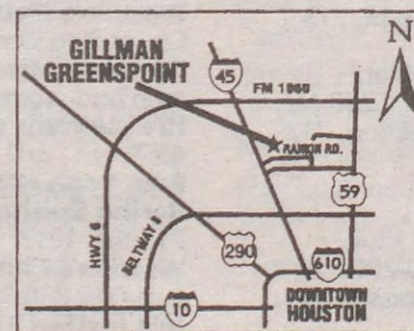
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Feds set to approve on-line bank for gays and lesbians

by GIP PLASTER and
MATTHEW A. HENNIE

Federal officials are expected this week to remove a major hurdle in the development of an on-line bank targeting gay men and lesbians, nearly a year after the regulatory process started.

If that happens, G&L Bank, an Internet-based operation headquartered in Pensacola, Fla., will schedule a grand opening for Oct. 11 to coincide with National Coming Out Day, said Steven Dunlap, G&L Bank's founder.

"We are ready the community is ready," Dunlap said May 4. "It gives us a great opportunity to leap over the majority of the hurdles. It can't continue to get pushed back."

G&L Bank has been awaiting regulatory approval for almost a year. The offices have been built and the website readied, but the institution has not been allowed to accept customers.

Government officials said the delay in granting a "deemed complete" letter to the bank the benchmark in gaining final approval is because the organization wants to operate on the Internet.

But other Internet-based banks already exist. And the pending approval, which Dunlap said he expected by Friday, comes just days after federal officials controlling the regulatory process were asked by a reporter if the delays were connected to the bank's potential target audience gay men and lesbians.

Federal officials flatly denied that,

adding that the new bank's method of operation is what caused the delays.

Either way, Dunlap said, he is pleased the bank is moving closer to opening. Dunlap was told May 4 that the "deemed complete," letter would be issued later this week.

Within 90 days of issuing the letter, the bank could be allowed to open, he said.

G&L Bank is seeking a charter as a thrift rather than as a bank or credit union. That means that once the operation is approved as a thrift by the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), it can operate across the U.S. Banks only operate in a limited geographic area. But because it is not a credit union, G&L Bank must make its services available to everyone, not just to gays and lesbians.

Dunlap envisions a bank, operating on the Internet, that would offer many of the same services as a traditional bank, including regular and interest-paying checking accounts with electronic bill paying, ATM cards and savings accounts. CDs, IRAs, loans and credit cards will also be available.

Services will be offered to everyone, but gays and lesbians will be the targeted population, he said.

"It's going to be a terrific benefit to the community. We have an extraordinary amount of pent-up demand," Dunlap said.

Currently, visitors to the bank's website at www.g-lbank.com are greeted

with an "Important Notice from G&L Bank." The message tells those wanting to become customers that as it nears the end of its "long journey to regulatory approval," the company is "just as eager to serve you as you are to do business with a bank that will treat you with the fairness, understanding and compassion that you deserve, coupled with strong financial products and services."

Dunlap said the bank gets hundreds of e-mails every day, many asking when the bank will open.

G&L Bank applied for approval in June 1998, according to OTS records. Most institutions that applied at about the same time have already been approved.

The only benchmark in the approval process is when an application is "deemed complete," said Bill Fulwider, a OTS spokesman, a status not yet granted to G&L Bank.

"It is an Internet operation, primarily, and that has, along with some types of applications, has given rise to some issues," he said.

An influx of insurance companies seeking approval as thrifts and a variety of other so-called "non-traditional" applications, along with other Internet-



based banking applications, have bogged down the system, Fulwider said.

OTS approval routinely comes within six months of an application, though non-traditional applications, like G&L Bank's, can expect a wait of more than a year, Fulwider said.

"We want to make sure we're not creating something (Internet operations) that's going to create problems for us down the line," he said. "One of the key things is to make sure that the integrity of the system is going to be protected."

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HATCH Seeks Sponsors for Prom Night '99

The 6th Annual Gay and Lesbian Prom Night is planned for June 19th. Sponsored by the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals. Prom Night raises money for activities throughout the year for youth attending HATCH functions. What makes Prom Night special is that it allows gay and lesbian youth to enjoy an event otherwise denied them because of their sexual orientation. To encourage participation, no formal dress code is set. Whether it is tuxedos and prom dresses or casual dress, the idea is to have fun and raise money for the growing needs of the organization. Decorations and entertainment are organized by the HATCH youth. Open to the public, tickets will be available at the door. The event is free for teens; \$20 for adults. You can also be a sponsor of the prom: for \$500 you can be a Superintendent of the event; \$250 get you Principal status; and \$100 names you as a Chaperone. Any donation will be appreciated. For more information, phone HATCH at 713.942.7002.

PWA Coalition desperately needs the following: Dishes, silverware, pots/pans, sheets, towels, dressers, dinettes, coffee tables, sofas, and small appliances. Available for pick-ups. Call Wilson or Kerry at 713.522.5428.

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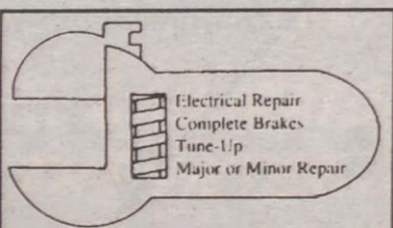
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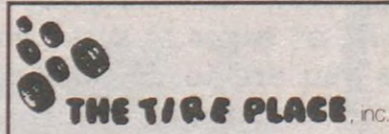


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Summer film preview

Film from page 17

Christina Cox, Ann-Marie MacDonald.

The Plot: Just hours before her mother and brother decide to move in with her, Maggie (Dwyer) discovers Kim (Cox), the woman she has been looking for all of her life. Not wanting to lose her, Maggie suggests the two set-up household. Comedy and mayhem ensues as Maggie (unsuccessfully) tries to hide her sexuality and her newfound romance from her family members.

The Lowdown: Award-winning director Anne Wheeler thinks that simply labeling "Better Than Chocolate" a lesbian romantic comedy doesn't do the film justice. "Sure, it's a romantic comedy and the lead players happen to be lesbians, but the situations they are going through could just as well happen to heterosexuals," the feature, documentary and television filmmaker said. "I think straight audiences have become sophisticated enough to enjoy a film where the romantic leads are lesbians. But, even if they don't, I think gay movie-goers will love it." (August 27)

"William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream"

The brains: Oh, some bard from England.

Cast: Christian Bale, Rupert Everett, Calista Flockhart, Kevin Kline, Michelle Pfeiffer, Sophie Marceau, David Strathairn, Stanley Tucci; written and directed by Michael Hoffman.

The Plot: Shakespeare's timeless sexy and sensual 400-year-old comedy, filled with nymphs, satyrs and pixies (with openly gay Rupert Everett appropriately cast as the King of the Fairies), is transported from ancient Greece to 19th Century Tuscany via the newly-invented bicycle.

The Lowdown: With such a stellar, all-star cast, director Michael Hoffman ("One Fine Day") is confident his treatment of one of the Bard's most famous comedies won't get lost in a summer filled with mega-blockbusters. "Films like 'A Midsummer's Night Dream' are usually released in the fall, after all the gargantuan movies have had the summer to slug it out," he said. "But, the studio and I felt so strongly about all the performances in this film, we just couldn't wait to get it out there. I mean, we have some of the biggest names in the entertainment business in this film—and they are all great? I'm just honored to have been a part of the whole thing. I think old Bill Shakespeare would be proud of what we have done, too." (May 14)

"The Adventures Of Sebastian Cole"



The brains: Writer/director Tod Williams.

Cast: Adrian Grenier, Clark Gregg, and Margaret Colin.

The Plot: Like any teenager, poor Sebastian Cole (Grenier) is having a tough time figuring out what he plans to do with his life. School is a bore and his love life stinks. His meager existence really seems to hit rock bottom when his stepdad, Hank (Gregg) announces to his family that he is going to have a sex change. After being whisked off to England by his confused mother (Colin), Sebastian returns to the States to live with his former stepdad—a pre-op Henrietta—to sort out life's complexities.

The Lowdown: This wonderfully off-beat, coming-of-age tale was a hit at this year's Sundance Film Festival, scoring high with jurors in the Dramatic Competition category. After its first screening, a bit of a bidding war ensued for the rights to distribute the film, with the newly-formed Paramount Classics winning the honors. "I was surprised there was so much interest in the film," writer/director Tod Williams said. "It seemed like the kind of film a lot of Hollywood types wouldn't 'get,' if you know what I mean. But, it seems to have struck a chord with a lot of people. I just hope it gets out to the people it was intended for—teen-agers trying to find their way." (August)

"Eyes Wide Shut"

The brains: Writer/director Stanley Kubrick

Cast: Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman, and Leelee Sobieski.

The Plot: Although the late, great Stanley Kubrick carried the complete storyline of "Eyes Wide Shut" to his grave, some of the highly-anticipated film's plot has leaked out. Basically, it's a story of two married therapists who get caught up in a web of jealousy and sexual obsession.

The Lowdown: Rumored to be full of nudity and graphic depictions of sexual perversions (Tom Cruise in drag?), "Eyes Wide Shut" seemed destined for an "NC-17" rating. But, just last week, the MPAA gave it an "R." Maybe it's not as down and dirty as we all hoped. But, even with Kubrick now resigned to that great movie soundstage in the sky, his stars are still keeping mum on what we can expect to see up on the silver screen come July 16. "Stanley wanted everything about the film to be secret, so, I only think it's only right I should honor his wish," actress Leelee Sobieski says. "He wanted it for a reason, so that film-goers would be surprised by what they saw. He felt if they knew too much about it, it would take away from its power and intensity." (July 16)

"trick"

The brains: Director Jim Fall

Cast: Christian Cambell, John Paul Pitoc, and Tori Spelling.

The Plot: Gabriel (Cambell), a young gay man, doesn't seem to be able to escape the world of heterosexuality. His gorgeous male roommate is terminally

straight and his best friend is a woman (Spelling). A way out of this hetero hell appears in the form of a sexy go-go boy that he meets in a cruise bar. He's finally going to get laid. Or is he? As the two desperately try to consummate a one-night stand, fate intervenes, and teaches them both a lesson about true love.

The Lowdown: Tori Spelling, one of the reigning queens of "90210," has desperately been trying to make a name for herself in motion pictures. While she's been offered parts in a number of big-budget studio pictures, she says she just couldn't pass up a role as good as the one in "trick." "As long as I've been in this town, the biggest lesson that I've learned is that, sometimes, the best parts are in the smaller, indie films," Spelling said. "After I read the script for 'trick' for the first time, I was like, 'I have to be in this film!' Initially, I don't know if Jim (Fall) thought I was right for the role. But, after a lot of begging and pleading he cast me. I'm so happy, because is the kind of film most actresses would kill to have on their résumé." (August 20)

Also recommended:

- "Election"
- "The Mummy"
- "School Of Flesh"
- "Three Seasons"
- "Tea With Mussolini"
- "Limbo"
- "Besieged"
- "South Park: Bigger, Longer And Uncut"



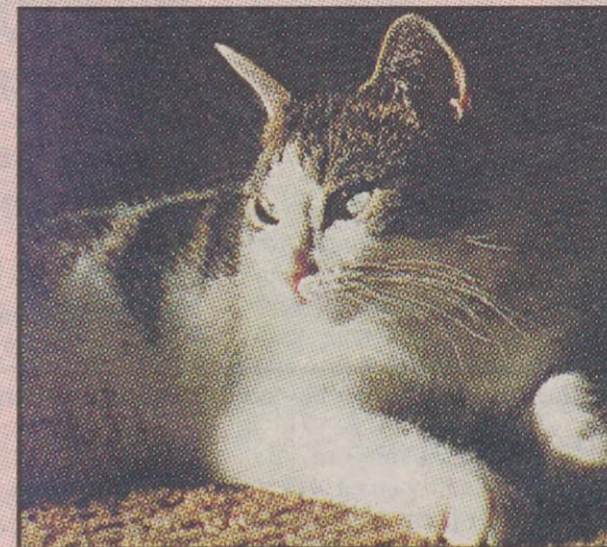
"An Ideal Husband"

- "An Ideal Husband"
- "Wild, Wild West"
- "Dick"
- "The Haunting"
- "Plunkett And MacCleane"
- "The Teena Brandon Story"
- "The Muse"



"The Muse"

Occasions



Pet Of The Week: This is Honey, who is lovingly cared for by Buz Larson

Birthdays

A special birthday message to **Casey Richardson**. "To the kindest man I know. Good luck with the North American Volleyball Association's tournament. I can't wait to see you and 'Mickey Mouse' back together again." Love, **Jamie**.



Casey

A former *Houston Voice* employee, **Jack Leonard**, celebrates his big birthday on May 10.



Jeff

Jeff, ferret lover and the manager of Decades celebrates his birthday at Decades on May 8. This should be quite the party.

Steve, currently of Mary's brings in the birthday cheer on May 13.

Sandi of TGRA gallops in another year on May 12.

Anniversaries

Happy anniversary to the **Laser Wizard** and *Houston Voice* sales representative and *eclipse* gossip columnist, **Cuervolyn**. It will be four years on May 13.

The *Houston Voice* welcomes your special occasions. Send e-mail to editor@houstonvoice.com. Fax: 713-529-9531. Mail: Occasions, *Houston Voice*, 500 Lovett Blvd., Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77006. Please include a telephone number so occasions can be verified and considered for publication.

Reminder: Send pictures of your pet to: Occasions, *Houston Voice*, 500 Lovett, Suite 200, Houston, Texas, 77006. Or send it over the Internet through your e-mail. Just attach a photo on the e-mail. And, our apologies to those people who, in the past, have e-mailed photos to us of their pets, we've lost quite a few of them (new editor, old computer habits)—so please resend those pictures to: editor@houstonvoice.com.

Galaxy Gayzer

by JOSEPH MOLINA

May 7 - May 13



Taurus (APRIL 21 — MAY 20)

Happy Birthday Taurus!!! Losing control of your senses and going to extremes is going to be a common theme this week. You must be careful in over-emphasizing things or blowing them out of proportion.



Gemini (MAY 21 — JUNE 21)

By letting your hair down and unloading stress your urges to have a little fun could get the better of you. Pay attention, you may be seen by someone important and one of your wildest dreams will have the potential to come true.



Cancer (JUNE 22 — JULY 23)

Feeling on top of the world Cancer? This week, your mind is going to be clearer. Your goals are in sight. A surge of power comes down to you from the heavens and the whole world seems to be in awe of your power. Strive to further your career, resolve issues with relationships, and start the next phase of your life.



Leo (JULY 24 — AUG. 23)

In the mist of change hold on to your seat—this is going to be a bumpy ride. Some major shifts are occurring and you may have to pretend that you're having fun. This week you will walk away from the past and fate will guide you into the future.



Virgo (AUG. 24 — SEPT. 23)

Avoiding others and steering clear of confrontations is what you should keep in mind over the course of this week. You moody side is likely to come out and your cynical face is going to be seen more often than not. Watch how you spend your money and stay away from strangers.



Libra (SEPT. 24 — OCT. 23)

Keeping a good head on your shoulders will be your best course of action while the universe test your mettle. If it's not one thing, it's another; set backs abound everywhere. Remember as the week progresses, your state of mind is the key to success or failure. Think positive and this week your life will fall in its place.



Scorpio (OCT. 24 — NOV. 22)

A week of reflection, inner contemplation, and looking back on your life. An inner mood triggers memories of your past to flow through your mind. Resolving lingering ties are possible now and old wounds can heal.



Sagittarius (NOV. 23 — DEC. 22)

This week is a week of power, movement and getting things done. Clean your house, give all your old cloths to the Salvation Army and get motivated to get some things done. Think about what you want to accomplish.



Capricorn (DEC. 23 — JAN. 20)

What happened Capricorn? Where did you place your motivation? Reading a good book may be your best goal this week. The cycle you find yourself in pulls you into a deep state and a period of extreme critical evaluation. Moving forward may not be easy but understanding why is very likely.



Aquarius (JAN. 21 — Feb. 19)

An emotional mood could have you sitting in a park getting in touch with your higher self or spending an afternoon at the movies. Rocky waters run deep and finding what will alleviate them will dominate most of this week.



Pisces (FEB. 20 — MARCH 20)

Neptune's shift redirects your attitudes and you feel like the world has been lifted off your shoulders. Freedom, that's what this week means. Kick back, relax you're going to discover a new meaning to the world lazy.



Aries (MARCH 21 — APRIL 20)

Time to move into the next phase of your life. Plant the seed for your future growth and watch them grow. Invest your money and wait for your profitable return. Look for a job this week or a new place to live while the cosmos is in your favor.

Joseph Molina, a practicing psychic for over 15 years, can be reached at astralwind@astralwind.com.

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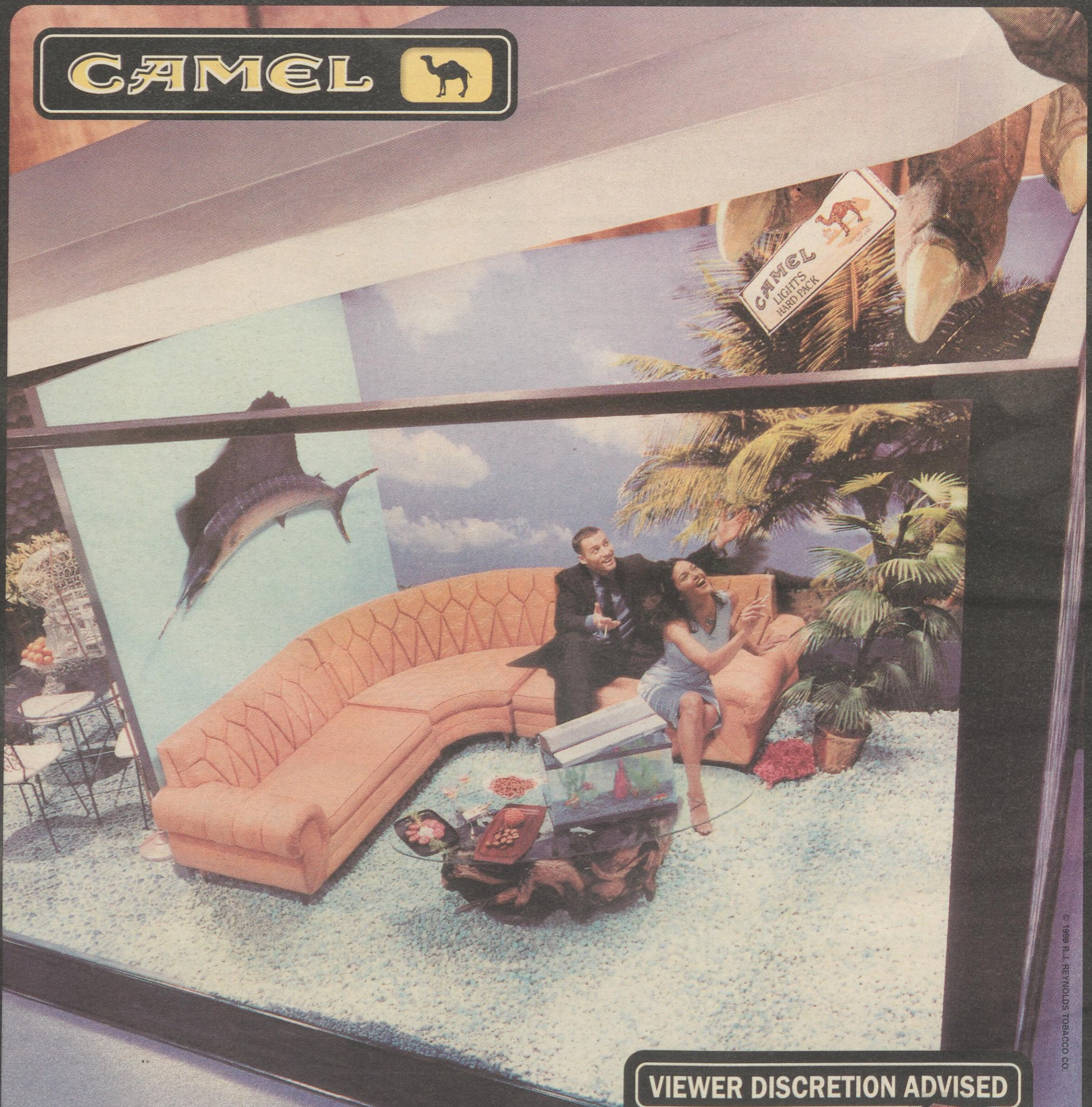


Photo by Gabriel T.

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